

Mr Sadat ready to continue talks with Israel alone

President Sadat said on American television yesterday that he is ready to negotiate with Israel alone, if necessary, even at Geneva. He would submit the results to an Arab summit. Israel has accepted his invitation to preparatory

Cairo meeting goes on despite prospect of empty Arab chairs

From Edward Mordimer, Cairo, Nov 27
President Sadat has now set the scene for separate negotiations between Israel and Egypt, even while protesting that he will never seek a bilateral agreement.

Unabashed by the prospect that other Arab states as well as the two superpowers may stay away from the talks he has called for Cairo next Saturday, he said in an American television interview this morning.

It is for everyone to decide for himself. But if the Israelis only come, I shall start the conference. If everything goes OK in Cairo and no one attends except one or two, we shall be proceeding to Geneva also.

In a speech to the Egyptian Parliament yesterday Mr Sadat announced that he was inviting the two superpowers and all the parties to the Middle East conflict, including Israel, to talks in Cairo to prepare for a resumption of the Geneva peace conference.

Israel has accepted the invitation to the talks while Syria and the Palestine Liberation Organisation have announced that they will boycott them. It is thought unlikely that Jordan, Lebanon or the Soviet Union will be willing to attend in Syria's absence, and if the Soviet Union is not there the United States and Geneva co-chairman, may well feel it is more tactful to stay away too.

In the television interview Mr Sadat spoke of the prospects of a Geneva meeting with the Israelis alone. He said: "If it comes to be success and we can reach a settlement, in this case, I shall be asking for an Arab summit and I shall put before them what I have reached. But mark this, this time I shall be proceeding until the end of the way."

This appears to mean that if other Arab parties decide to boycott the Geneva conference, Mr Sadat will proceed with the talks alone.

However, the Prime Minister, who is due to fly to Britain on Friday for a two-postponed

talks in Cairo starting next Saturday. Syria and the PLO will boycott the talks and it is thought unlikely that Jordan, Lebanon or the Soviet Union will come. The rejectionist Arab states are to meet in Libya on Thursday.



President Sadat (top) makes his conference proposal to the Egyptian Parliament, and Mr Begin accepts.

The Administration's slow response partly reflects the fact that most of Washington has been on a holiday for Thanksgiving. More significantly, senior members of the Administration have been reluctant to establish a direct dialogue with leaders of opinion in the occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip over the head of the PLO.

Mr Yasser Arafat, leader of the PLO, and his rival, Mr George Habash, who opposes any compromise with Israel, will fly to Tripoli on Wednesday for a summit meeting of rejectionist states presided over by Colonel Qaddafi of Libya.

Official comment from the White House and the State Department has been unusually sparse. A White House spokesman said only that the Administration would be consulting those invited to determine their willingness to meet in Cairo.

The State Department was slightly more forthcoming. A spokesman has told reporters that the Administration believed a Cairo meeting "could be helpful."

Mr Steel would quit as leader if party decided to end Labour pact against his wishes

By Fred Emery, Political Editor
Mr David Steel is making clear to his party that he would not carry on as Liberal leader if his party ultimately decided to end the pact with the Labour Government against his wishes.

The chances of that happening, which had seemed remote, have moved somewhat closer since the Liberal Council on Saturday put the party on standby for a special assembly to consider ending the pact.

Mr Steel, who was with his family in Scotland yesterday, was unavailable for comment. But his associates made it clear that his mood is one of determination to fight for continuation of the pact to the last, not simply to issue a resignation threat.

Mr Steel clearly now needs and expects the Prime Minister to make the decision to make the pact seem worthwhile. The Liberal leader, after being harangued by firemen on a tour of north-west England, has confided his irritation over the fact that he is doing more to stand by government policy than a number of Labour Party leaders. That irritation has apparently coloured his attitude towards his own party's confrontation.

While it is being said that Mr Callaghan could carry on for the present with Scottish and Welsh nationalist MPs supporting him, it may be doubted whether the party would really support him with the assurance of Liberal support.

The potential detonator for demolition is the way the Labour Party votes on proportional representation for the elections to the European Assembly. That vote could come in about ten days' time.

At that point the Liberals must decide what to do. Instead of precipitating the issue they have, however, left themselves one fallback position of deciding next spring the Liberal Council meeting in Derby on Saturday was held.

This fall back position is that if PR was narrowly defeated next month, Liberals could stay their hand if the Government undertook to reinstate it in an amendment in the House of Lords and put that to a final Commons vote.

But Liberal inquiries are being made for theatres and halls in Manchester and Birmingham in which to hold a special assembly during the pantomime season. That would become ineluctable if Labour MPs obliged the Liberals to implement the dire contingency of the Liberal resolution passed on Saturday.

His key passage ran: "If the House of Commons fails to pass the regional list system for direct elections to the European Assembly, which is a result of the failure of substantial majority of Labour MPs to support it, a special meeting of the assembly shall be summoned."

The resolution was carried overwhelmingly, with an estimated 70 per cent majority of the 150 members attending. Its movers disputed suggestions that the resolution left any discretion.

It simply empowered three "wise men", Mr Geoffrey Tordoff, the party president, Mr Gruffydd Evans, chairman, and Mr Michael Meadowcroft, chairman of the assembly committee, "to decide whether the situation defined has arisen".

Suggestions that Mr Steel might be counting on that group, or friends on it, to declare a draw, as it were, and so elude the special assembly were challenged last night. Mr Michael Steel, party president-elect and mover of the Derby resolution, said that the strong views of those attending the private meeting of the party's executive committee on Friday made such evasion "very unlikely".

Mr Steel claimed that the Liberal Party was in fact united over wanting to make the pact with Labour work. "PR is the test of whether Labour MPs want the pact to continue," he said.

He suggested that the "real situation" would all the speculation over political hypotheses, was "the real chance" that PR would after all pass the Commons, and that Mr Steel's leadership would emerge strengthened.

At Derby Mr Steel could point to the failure, by a vote of 76 to 71, of a motion demanding the immediate scrapping of the pact with Labour. The announced result of that vote reveals the "real situation" of the supposed unity of the party.

CND scents a young protesters' revival

By Robin Young
What was once the biggest popular protest movement Britain has ever seen held its annual conference at the weekend in a hall at the Polytechnic of Central London.

There were about 200 delegates, but by yesterday afternoon half of them had abandoned debates which had become desultory, and the chairman had no difficulty in concluding the conference business an hour ahead of the intended time.

None the less, the leaders of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament professed themselves mightily encouraged by this year's conference, the first for many years to have more delegates present than the year before.

What cheered them most was a sudden (and not clearly understood) revival of interest among students and the young. Some of the delegates had never been to a CND conference before, let alone tramped the famous route from Aldermaston to London.

For an organization that claims to destroy the imminent danger of nuclear annihilation, and which for a while commanded more moral indignation in this country than the church itself, the debates were surprisingly low-key.

What might have been the most contentious resolution, concerning CND's attitude to the nuclear power programme, was never put, because the delegates in whose name it stood did not arrive to propose it.

Many of CND's leading members are anxious not to get involved in the alternative energy debate for fear of dissipating their own resources. Instead, the conference passed a resolution calling for support to workers in health, education and the social services who are opposing public expenditure cuts, and making a national petition against the neutron bomb.

They decided against trying to take the United States to the International Court of Justice at The Hague for having nuclear weapons at bases in Scotland, but hope to deploy 5,000 people in a demonstration against one of the bases next year.

It was time for a national debate about what would come after the Polarie submarines, Mr John Cox, the campaign's retiring chairman, said. "There is need for public discussion and an inquiry if the decision is not to be taken behind closed doors," he added.

But his newly elected successor, Mr Bruce Kent, a former chairman of War on Want, was optimistic. He said: "If we cannot win now we must be somewhat wrong with us."

"Never, I should think, in the last 15 years has there been a moment more ripe for rethinking Britain's nuclear position. The contrary view to ours is hardly maintained now."

The Daily Telegraph. We are pushing at a door which is already beginning to open.

He seemed more certain about it than ever the veteran campaigners were when they marched from Aldermaston with hundreds of thousands behind them.

Traditionally the time when Hine gains its greatest distinction is after dinner. This is particularly true of the finer Hines, like Hine Antique and Hine OV where the delicate blends and subtle bouquets come into their own.

But equally there is a Hine for any occasion. Hine ★★ on its own or with a mixer has the rarity of flavour some connoisseurs prefer to any other ★★ Cognac.

Try Hine VSOP at any time. But only on its own. However good the mixer, there are some things a connoisseur just would not do. So when Hine? Why not now?

Hine The Connoisseurs' Cognac.

Rhodesian raid across border lasts six days

From Nicholas Ashford, Johannesburg, Nov 27
Fighting was believed to be continuing today in the vicinity of Chimbo in central Mozambique after an attack last week by the Rhodesian armed forces on anti-apartheid camps belonging to the Zimbabwe African National Union (Zanu).

So far the only confirmation of the attack has come from Mozambique, who last week announced that Rhodesia had launched its biggest raid ever into Mozambique territory. The Rhodesians so far have not commented on the Mozambique statement, but sources in Salisbury said there can be no doubt that a big operation is under way. They say that it is customary for the Rhodesians to remain silent about such operations until they are completed and Rhodesian units have returned.

Chimbo (formerly Vila Pery) lies about 40 miles east of the Rhodesian border town of Umtata. The headquarters of the Zanu army, known as ZANLA, is understood to be situated just to the north of the town.

According to reports here, so far unconfirmed, the Rhodesian attack started last Tuesday and involved units of the crack Special Air Service as well as the Rhodesian Light Infantry. Aircraft and helicopters were also used in the attack.

Sources in the Rhodesian capital have claimed that up to 600 guerrillas may have been killed during this attack. There has also been speculation that one of the aims of the attack was to eliminate the two most important ZANLA leaders, Mr Josiah Tongogara and Mr Rex

Nkomo, although it is not known whether they were in Chimbo at the time.

At the end of last week Mozambique radio reported that more Rhodesian troops had been landed by helicopter and that resistance from the Mozambique Army and the local population. The Mozambique had planned to take journalists to Chimbo at the weekend to inspect the damage done during the attacks but this did not materialise.

It would seem evident that the attack has been deliberately timed to coincide with last Thursday's acceptance by Mr Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, of the principle of one man one vote and its immediate initiative for a settlement with the internally based nationalist leaders.

It would appear therefore that Rhodesia's tactics are to use the Zanu wing of the Patriotic Front in the field and so allow the internal negotiations the maximum amount of time to get off the ground. It is also a way of demonstrating that Rhodesia is not a purely military based nation, but one that has an army, of its own, that they can count on Rhodesian military support if they should become the future government.

Lesaka: Zambia said today it had shot down a Rhodesian military aircraft which yesterday had been seen in the air over the Zambian borders near almost due east of here—Agence France-Press.

Mozambique decision, page 5

Mr Begin quick to accept Egyptian invitation

From Moshe Brilliant, Tel Aviv, Nov 27
Israel has accepted President Sadat's call to a Cairo summit conference, resuming the Geneva Middle East peace talks without waiting for a formal invitation or a Cabinet decision.

The announcement was made last night after Mr Begin, the Prime Minister, conferred with a group of ministers representing the parties in his coalition. He reported to the full Cabinet this morning and said it was still not clear whether the meeting is to be held at the policy-making or technical level.

However, the Prime Minister, who is due to fly to Britain on Friday for a two-postponed

Four printing unions in talks about merger

By Christopher Thomas, London, Nov 27
Four printing unions in the printing industry have begun formal merger talks in an attempt to create a single, 150,000-member union by the end of next year.

A sense of urgency surrounds the discussions because of imminent plans by some newspaper managements to introduce advanced printing methods that will make some of the traditional crafts obsolete.

The merger would reduce the printing industry unions to two, both of about the same size, making it easier to present a united stand on new technology proposals.

There have been negotiations before, but they did not reach such an advanced stage or involve so many unions. And they did not have the

early prospect of new technology to provide an impetus. The preliminary ground has been covered in informal meetings and amalgamation panels from each union are ready to start drawing up a rule book.

The panels met for three days last week and made progress on the procedures to be adopted for the drafting of a new constitution. Any agreement will have to be put to the memberships by ballot.

The unions are the National Graphical Association (NGA), whose members include typesetters, compositors, foundry workers and machine men; the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphic and Media Personnel (Nesop), whose mechanical members work in the machine room; the Society of Lithographic Artists, Designers,

Engravers and Process Workers (Slade); and the National Union of Wellcoverers, Decorators and Allied Trades (Nurden), which has its main strength in the Manchester area.

To unravel the complicated structures of the four unions and present a single rule book will be a formidable task, especially in such a brief time. The amalgamation panels will have to negotiate many pitfalls, not least the delicate issue of demarcation lines.

The union not involved in the talks is the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogart), whose members work in warehousing and distribution. An amalgamation between the new body, if it is created, and Sogart is the ultimate aim, but that is a more long-term matter.

Machismo is written off officially in Portugal

From Our Correspondent, Lisbon, Nov 27
Portugal's new civil code is based on the principle of the "machismo" of the Portuguese male. It gives a wife equal rights with her husband, illegitimate children the same rights as legitimate ones, and allows a man to take his wife's surname if he wants to.

Machismo represents all the male prerogatives which have kept women in a subservient position here.

This new code has now been officially approved and published in the Diário da República, the government gazette. It comes into force on April 1.

Other innovations include 18 as the coming-of-age year for both sexes, and marriage at 16, also for both. Previously the girl could marry at 14.

The husband's supreme power as head of the family disappears and his wife has equal rights with him in all family decisions. These include exercising her own profession, cohabitation with him, and choice of the family home.

Either may ask for a divorce after two years of marriage, but an official attempt at reconciliation must first be made.

Further social decisions by the government concern road safety in a country whose road accident rate is one of the highest in Europe. Seat belts for drivers and front seat passengers are to be compulsory and breathalyzer tests will soon be introduced.

Call to investigate Polish ships deal

An urgent investigation is being sought into the terms of the £15m Polish ship deal signed last week. Mr Michael Grieve, leader of the Opposition's Industry Committee, has asked Mr Edward Du Cann, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee, to call an emergency session and question those involved. Page 19

Labour EEC talks

The full Cabinet and the Labour Party's National Executive Committee are to meet today with the aim of formulating an agreed policy on the EEC. Page 4

Marseilles metro

Marseilles began enjoying its new non-polluting metro at the weekend, the first few days being free-traffic. Government ministers did not attend the opening. Page 4

Fraser difficulties

Personal issues, particularly the tax avoidance schemes operated by some Australian politicians, are still holding the attention of voters, who will decide on December 10 whether to return Mr Malcolm Fraser's Government to office. Opinion polls indicate there might be an upset. Page 4

Home News	4	Chess	5	Letters	15, 28	Science	17
European News	4	Church	17	Obituary	17	Sport	18, 25
Overseas News	4, 5	Calendar	17	Parliament	17	TV & Radio	15
Agriculture	4	Crossword	26	Theatre, etc.	8, 9	25 Years Ago	17
Appointments	17, 22	Engagements	17	Premium Bonds	17	Universities	17
Arts	9	Europe Law	4	Property	6	Weather	2
Business	15-23	Features	12, 14	Sale Room	17		

Cabinet will resign today in Japan

The Japanese Cabinet will resign today and a new Council of Ministers will be appointed to deal with the threat of international protectionism and the problems of Japan's huge trade surplus. Mr Fukuda, the Prime Minister, announced at a television press conference. Page 4

S African election

The South African ruling National Party has put up English-speaking candidates in the Cape Province to attract English speakers in the forthcoming general election. The main battle in the province, however, will be between the conservative New Republic Party, which is a supporter of the United Party, and the Liberal Progressive Federal Party. Page 5

New era of Irish economic links

A new period of economic cooperation between London, Dublin and Belfast has started since the September summit between Mr Callaghan and Mr Lynch. Transport and the economy are among areas being reviewed. Page 2

NUT urges ban on questionnaire

The National Union of Teachers is to ask its members and chief education officers not to reply to the Government's questionnaire on the curriculum. It fears interference and suggests submitting general memoranda instead. Page 3

Rainfall of the pipe: Why any pleasure is found in cigar and pipe smoking has puzzled a research worker. 3

Amsterdam: Christian Democrats and Liberal leaders in Holland agree to form a right-wing coalition. 4

Delhi: Indian journalists assert that a free press has an "involuntary right" to oppose governments. 5

Features, pages 12 and 14
William Rees-Mogg examines China's attitudes to the "three worlds"; Lord Chalfont looks at Service pay. Leader, page 15

Letters: On Gibraltar in an income policy, from Lady Wootton of Ashinger and others. Leading articles: South African elections; is a Bill of Rights any good? Arts, page 9

Juan Chissel on the Leeds National Musician's Platform; Ned Chaffler on Flying Blind in Liverpool; Elsiech Rindler reviews Orwell, by Ronald Lockley; William Allen on The Maple Grove (Colston) and Elizabeth Schwarzkopf's racial wit; Geoffrey Parsons. Obituary, page 17

Mr Arthur Bell: Dr William Bullerwell Scott, pages 10-12
Reverend: How honour Sam Doyle's memory? Gerard University name their team for Twickenham. Business News, pages 19-23

Business feature: Frank Veal on the problems facing America's car makers; Hugh Stephenson; The unappreciated record of national planning; Business management: Patricia Thadell discusses Green Shield's steps to recover from the loss of the Tesco franchise; Business Diary in Europe; Europe's consumer campaign to stop doom.

The Why, When, Where and How of Hine Cognac

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For an informative leaflet on Cognac and a postcard to Depoim, 6th Floor, 1 Chancery Street, London W1A 4EQ.

HOME NEWS

Union asking teachers and chief education officers not to answer questions on curriculum

By Diana Geddes,
Education Correspondent

The National Union of Teachers has decided to ask its members not to cooperate with the Government's questionnaire on the curriculum, which is being sent to local authorities today. It fears that it could be the beginning of government interference in the curriculum.

The executive committee of the union, which represents more than half of all teachers in England and Wales, agreed on Saturday that it should ask teachers who are members of local authorities and all chief education officers not to fill in the questionnaire, which contains more than 50 detailed questions on curriculum content, policy and control.

It feels that government pressure is being put on local authorities to answer the questionnaire. "What is the authority's policy for the provision of science courses for pupils up to the age of 16?" is one of the questions which local authorities should answer, according to the questionnaire.

The Government's circular on the curriculum, which has been drawn up only after prolonged consultations with the teachers' organizations and local authorities, is the first concrete product of the Green Paper on education published last July. Replies are wanted by June 30 next. The Government will then decide what kind of curriculum will give to authorities. Mrs

Williams, Secretary of State for Education and Science, has insisted that there is no question of central government seeking control of the curriculum.

The circular emphasizes that "the proper function of the education system in England and Wales depends on the effective cooperation of the schools, their teachers and their governors and managers; the local education authorities; and the Secretary of State (for Education and Science) and for Wales with their departments and RMC Inspectors."

The secretaries of state have no intention of changing that position, which reflects the position of the education system in England and Wales. At the same time they recognize the legitimate interest of others, for example, parents, industry and commerce, in the work of the schools.

The circular, however, states that the time has come to consider "systematic information" about curriculum arrangements so that they could answer "how far the practice of local authorities meets national requirements."

They want to be able to identify "examples of good practice" that could be commended for wider adoption. They ask that local authority reports should include: information about plan development as well as the present provision.

The questionnaire is divided into seven main sections:

1. The authority's general policy on the curriculum and the degree of its control in setting that

policy is implemented in the schools. Questions are included on the effects of the Sex Discrimination Act on the curriculum, the role of the school's governing body, and what financial assistance is given to new curriculum development.

2. Curriculum balance and breadth. What do authorities consider to be the core or positive part of the curriculum? What provision is made for: health, careers and social education, and what is done to help schools to promote racial understanding?

3. Particular subject areas. Authorities are asked to specify specifically on their policies for English, mathematics, modern languages and religious education, those being the subject areas that have given rise most to recent concern. But it is emphasized that does not mean that other subjects are considered less important.

4. What arrangements are made to make the distinction between schools and children grow older as smooth as possible, including cooperation between teachers and many written and oral, continuity in the curriculum?

5. What records are kept of pupils' progress and to what extent is the information recorded made available outside the school?

6. Preparation for working life. The section includes questions on the new technical issues of what is done to encourage political, economic and social education.

7. Other issues. This includes several sections on what the authority does to encourage cooperation between schools and further education colleges in making provision for the 16 to 19 age group.

Pleasures of the pipe remain an enigma

By John Roper

Health Services Correspondent

Why smokers of pipes and cigars bother to smoke at all is an enigma, according to a report in the *British Medical Journal*. It points out that, except for those who previously smoked cigarettes, they do not inhale and absorption of nicotine appears to be insignificant.

The article, reporting on a study conducted by Dr J. A. McMichael at the Middlesbrough Hospital, describes how nine doctors and a cardiologist technician, half of them former cigarette smokers and half pipe and cigar smokers, each smoked a large cigar. The former cigarette smokers inhaled and absorbed significant amounts of nicotine.

Dr Turner, a research fellow in the department of medicine, concludes that measures aimed at persuading cigarette smokers to switch to cigars will have little effect on their health.

He says that although it was known that cigarette smokers smoked cigars, it was surprising to find that they did so with large cigars. It had been thought that the smoke would be too irritating.

An unexpected finding was the insignificant amount of nicotine absorbed through the mouth by smokers of pipes and cigars. They were as addicted to their pipes and cigars as the former cigarette smokers had been to the smoking habit.

Asked yesterday why they smoked when the stimulation of inhaling nicotine appeared to be largely absent, pipe-smokers replied: "I reach for my pipe and fill it up slowly. After the first few puffs, they suggested it had something to do with the smell, the taste and the comfort of a well-filled pipe."



Children from Redcliffe primary school, Rotherhithe, feeding animals at the docks farm. It gives the children their first taste of country life.

Lack of cash may close docks farm

By John Young

Planning Reporter

A small farm nestled amid the silted docks of the disused Surrey docks, which has given hundreds of London schoolchildren their first and only taste of country life, may soon have to close through lack of funds.

The farm was started two years ago by Miss Hilary Peters, and Mr Kenneth Bushell, two professional landscape gardeners, who decided the "deserted" scrubland would be ideal for grazing geese. A pair of donkeys and several geese,

ducks and hens were added to the menagerie and, Miss Peters says, in no time at all they were swamped by requests from schools for visits.

Miss Jennifer Gallagher, a teacher at the local primary school, said: "Most of the children around here live on estates where they are not allowed to keep cats or dogs or other pets. Zoos are not the same, because the animals are behind bars."

"When they first come here they have never had any contact with animals and they are frightened. But they gradually overcome their fear, and a whole new world opens up for them."

Until now the farm has been run by five nominally part-time volunteers, although some of them work virtually full time. They charge no admission fees, and their most substantial

assistance to date has been a small grant from the Docklands Joint Committee for landscaping work and the purchase of a pony cart.

They have been given free use of the land by Southwark council and a tacit promise that if the docks are redeveloped, provision will be made for the farm to continue.

But Miss Peters and Mr Bushell have run out of money. They and their colleagues will soon have to start working again, and they estimate that they need at least £10,000 to pay the salaries of two full-time and two part-time staff for the next year.

That, they say, will give them a breathing space in which to consider charging admission fees and applying for grants. Failing that, the geese and the ducks will be no more than a short-lived memory.

Poor 'forced to choose between food and fuel'

By Robin Young

Consumer Correspondent

The Government has done too little to counteract the effect of sharply increased fuel bills on the budgets of poor people, a report published today by the National Consumer Council states. It says the Department of Energy's "Save It" campaign has had minimal effect on low-income groups and there has been no effective output from the junior ministers' energy conservation committee.

The report's author, Mr David Green, of Friends of the Earth, says many low-income families have to choose between fuel or food. He cites a survey showing that 3.6 per cent of pensioners admitted to hospital were suffering from hypothermia.

The Government's electricity discount scheme to help the poorest families to meet winter fuel bills had a take-up rate of only 57 per cent last year, Mr Green says. That was because of the complexity of the scheme, the "extraordinarily high reading level" required by the publicity leaflet, and difficulties in its distribution.

Many poor consumers cannot pay their fuel bills, let alone find an additional lump sum for insulation, the report says, and in the poorest homes heating standards are already so low that insulation would not reduce fuel bills.

The report's recommendations, which are supported by the National Consumer Council, include a considerable insulation programme by the Government, with cash grants available to householders through the home improvement grant system. It says there should be home insulation schemes for elderly and disabled people under the Government's job creation programme.

It suggests that the Government should pay the total cost of loft insulation, draught-proofing and hot water tank lagging in the homes of those covered by the fuel industries code of prices on the payment of gas and electricity bills.

Insulation and Energy Advice: Some Future Possibilities. National Consumer Council, 18 Tavistock Square, London, SW1, 4DP.

Labour picks lecturer for Irvine seat

Mr Robert Waring, aged 47, principal lecturer at the Central Liverpool College of Further Education, was adopted yesterday as the Labour Party candidate for Liverpool, Edge Hill, the seat held for Labour by Sir Arthur Irvine for 30 years. Mr Waring is president of Liverpool Labour Party.

The constituency party called for the resignation of Sir Arthur, aged 67, some months ago, saying he did not adequately represent his constituents.

Sir Arthur said he would resign if the decision were voted against him. It did but he stayed on to save the Government embarrassment in case the seat, with a 6,171 majority, was lost to Labour.

General election: Sir Arthur (Lab), 13,023; D. Alton (L), 6,852; S. N. Perry (C), 5,208.

Lorry ban sought for Tower Bridge

Some 4,000 lorries may be banned from using Tower Bridge, London. The City Corporation says the bridge, built in the nineteenth century, is taking too much of a battering from juggernauts.

So the corporation is applying to the Greater London Council for an order restricting vehicles using the bridge to five tons laden weight.

Headless men named

Two men whose decapitated bodies were found beside the main Glasgow to Euston railway line at Whitley, Northamptonshire, were named yesterday as Mr Brian Hakes, aged 45, and Mr William Payton, aged 23, both of Northampton.

Attacked by fox

A fox which attacked two people near Bloxham, north Oxfordshire, was being hunted yesterday by police and RSPCA officials.

Big pay rises may affect pensions, unions are told

Trade unionists expecting a prosperous retirement on a pension scheme should moderate their pay claims, a senior union official says. Pay awards that fuel inflation could destroy years of effort put into company pension schemes, according to Mr Harry Lucas, pension adviser to the General and Municipal Workers' union.

Even grade union members can be affected by investment yields, Mr Lucas says in an article in *Choice*, a magazine for retirement planning. And with inflation running at 14 to 15 per cent, the return on invested pension funds cannot keep pace.

Mr Lucas points out that if wage inflation overtook those pensions or interest rates, there might not be enough money to pay the promised pension.

Trade unionists involved in wage bargaining should consider a complete package which includes a pension scheme, not just money now, he writes. Employers faced with substantial wage demands might not be able to afford to maintain their contributions to pension schemes.

When a good occupational pension scheme existed, "the wage claim must take into account the additional cost of keeping the pension scheme healthy in line with the wage award."

New Zealand fears curb on lamb exports

Mr Duncan MacIntyre, New Zealand Minister of Agriculture, is visiting some of his European counterparts, in part through London during his tour and said: "Some ministers of agriculture would have a slight relief if they read in *The Times* tomorrow that New Zealand had sunk beneath the Pacific."

He felt confident about that even though snow had prevented him from visiting Dublin, a model of the most determined opponents of New Zealand's presence in the EEC market. "Please do not let the impression that I am complaining," Mr MacIntyre added after a long exposition of the faults and inconsistencies of the common agricultural policy.

Mr MacIntyre said that the EEC, that trade-based suppliers of food would face changes in their trade, "New Zealand governments have attempted to influence the argument and discuss it their way but have given us a moral responsibility to defend and support it." The two ministers were talking at a dinner organised by the British and New Zealand societies of a New Zealand meat company.

Mr MacIntyre made it clear on his visit that his country wanted permanent access for its food to the Community, perhaps on the same terms as the French, German, Dutch and Belgian. It was prepared to appeal to every available international forum or convention to keep its access to Europe.

New Zealand faces three main threats to its food trade in the EEC, almost all of which is done with Britain. It faces a free cheese trade, a free butter trade, and a free lamb trade. It faces a free lamb trade, a free beef trade, and a free pig trade.

The lamb issue has long been overshadowed by the free trade of butter and cheese, but Mr MacIntyre indicated that New Zealand farmers are now equally worried about all three. Lamb is one of the few farm products for which prices are outside the common agricultural policy. Each country will use its traditional national policy. Since the Treaty of Rome says that "the

Agriculture

Hugh Clayton

functioning and development of the Common Market in respect of agricultural products shall be accompanied by the establishment of a common agricultural policy". Brussels wants to bring in lamb.

That frightens New Zealand, since it believes the main effect of any EEC sheep plan would be to raise the price of lamb drastically in Britain, which is the main market. The United Kingdom consumes more lamb than the rest of the EEC put together.

Yet although consumption of lamb has been falling in recent years British farmers can still not supply much more than half of the national requirements. The rest comes from New Zealand and much less than lamb produced in any other Community country, except the Irish Republic.

There are almost as many sheep in New Zealand as in the whole of the EEC. Last year the Community imported 270,000 tonnes of lamb, of which 220,000 tonnes were from New Zealand. That last figure represented almost two-thirds of all New Zealand sheep meat exports.

Sales of lamb in Britain are at the mercy of the beef market. New Zealand lamb, in particular, sells mainly because it is cheaper than beef. If lamb was pulled into the EEC and the price went up sharply, New Zealanders fear, shoppers would simply turn to beef or pork or broiler chicken, and the Community lamb market would be lost to internal and external farmers alike.

French farmers receive more than 17 francs a kilogram for their lamb in France, while British farmers receive less than 60p a pound for theirs here. If those prices are converted to the same unit they show a very wide gap at more than £2 a kilogram in France and less than £1.50 a kilogram in Britain. British prices of New Zealand lamb are even lower.

The EEC Commission recognises that "the total income of United Kingdom farmers (gross price and direct aid) remains lower than that received by French farmers, owing to the difference in market prices". But it adds, in a report about the sheep market published early this year: "If one were to compare the profit margins in British farming and French farming, the ratio comes out to the advantage of the former."

The commission gave two reasons for that. First was low production cost, because British farming produces grass-fattened lamb and grass is a cheap feed. "This production is therefore of a seasonal character, which is no problem for the consumer since New Zealand production is there to fill the out-of-season gap." The second reason lay in more efficient use of labour and the production cycle.

There is thus evidence that the Commission understands the importance of New Zealand in the common agricultural policy. But New Zealanders fear that the Community may try to create rules for lamb that retain the advantages that New Zealand has brought to the British meat market in 100 years of trading while doing without its present.

They have two main worries. The first is that the EEC will draw the lamb trade of all countries except Britain into the common agricultural policy and then gradually apply the same rules here, as they have done to butter. They also suspect that if rules are ever framed that make it harder for farmers to sell lamb in the Community, Greece might by then be a member of it.

Although present New Zealand lamb sales to Greece are less than a tenth of those to Britain, consumption there is exceptionally high. Individual consumption of sheep meat in Greece is half as high again as in Britain.

"If ever the Community had a chance to show a liberal approach to agricultural imports," Mr MacIntyre said, "to show that it had studied and learnt the lessons of its experience with butter and beef, and to demonstrate to the rest of the world that agricultural trade relations matter, this is it."

Civil Service cyclists steer within guidelines

By a Staff Reporter

Civil servants have been given fresh inducement to escape the corridors of power and to get out and meet people by an increase in their bicycle allowance.

In future they will be able to claim anything from 2.1p a mile for less than 100 miles a month to a maximum of £3.42 for more than 300 miles a month. The overall increase is calculated to be about a tenth and thus to conform with the Government's pay guidelines.

The Civil Service Department pointed out yesterday that the allowance was payable only to those who bicycled on government business and not to those who used their machines merely for commuting. Examples might be co-ordinators and health and social security visitors.

Entitlement to such an allowance is thought to date from before the use of the car, when the bicycle was regarded as an effective alternative to the hansom cab. It has been revised at irregular intervals ever since.

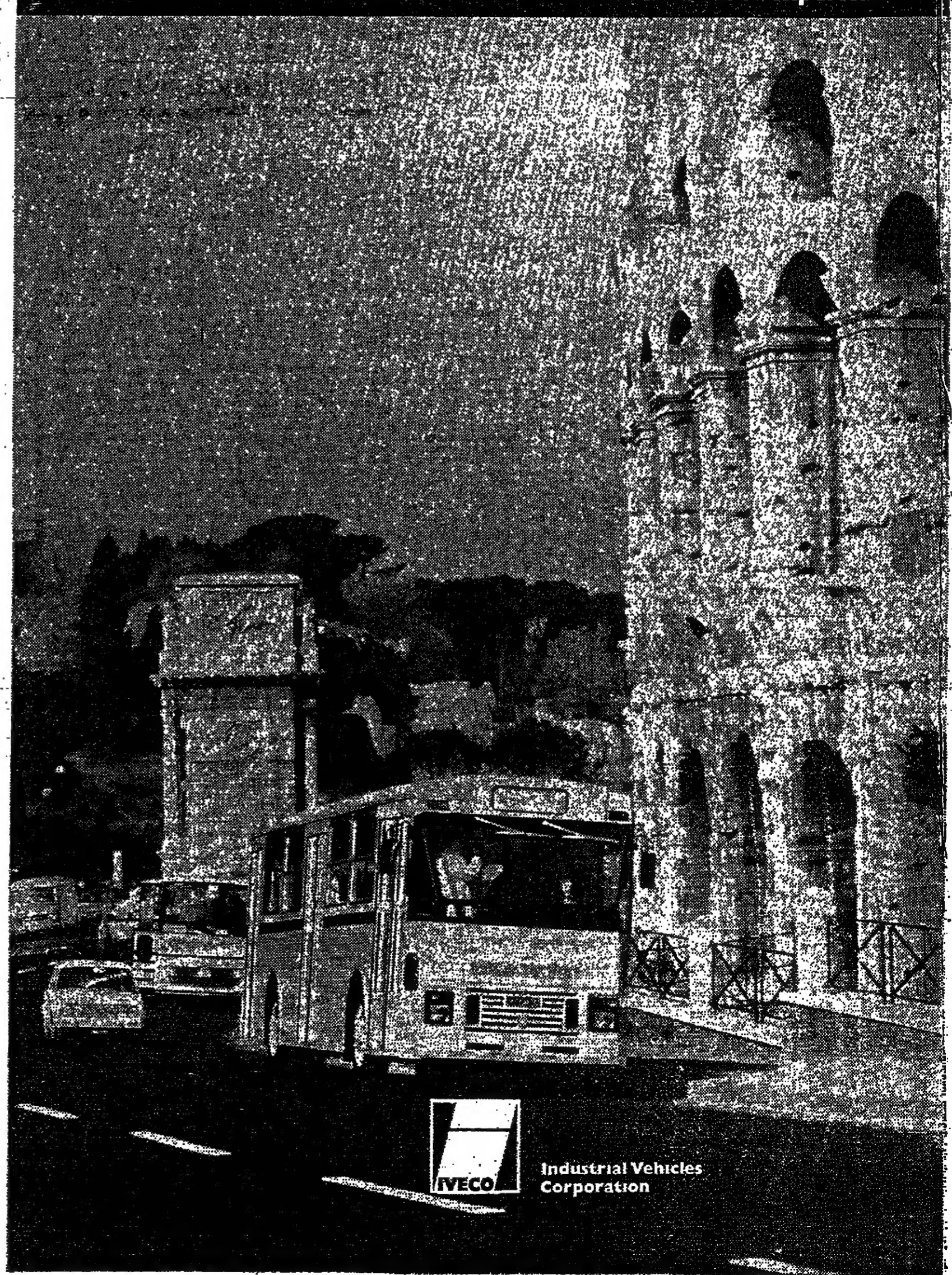
An official said he thought the allowance would be payable only to those who used their own machines and not to those who used government contraptions. Cyclists were subject to the increased costs of wear and tear just as much as those who drove the new-fangled automobiles.

Extra canal money

The Manpower Services Commission is to make available an extra £125,000 for restoration work on the Kennet and Avon Canal near Bath. The money will provide 43 unemployed people with a year's work. The commission has already allocated more than £200,000 for the project.

A bus in an historic city. A coach on a modern highway. A truck crossing a continent, or working on a construction site, or putting out a fire. Vehicles named Fiat, OM, Lancia, Unic, Magirus-Deutz. This is the world of Iveco.

Iveco: a world of experience.



Industrial Vehicles Corporation

HOME NEWS

Labour executive and Cabinet meet today for EEC policy talks

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

An agreed Labour policy on the European Community is the declared object of the long-awaited meeting today between the full Cabinet and the party's national executive committee.

While withdrawal has at least been held as a bogey, divisions still run deep as evidenced in last Thursday's Commons vote on the European Assembly elections.

Of course, the Government is committed and will carry the day. But with less than half the Labour MPs voting for the simple principle of direct elections, never mind the haggling to come over the method, it is small wonder that Labour's brave international socialists have still not formally decided as a party, whether to put up candidates in the elections.

SEN has been there been consideration of the policies on which its candidates might stand. Labour MPs who are interested have not yet been told whether the party is planning to circulate the draft statement of the Confederation of Socialist Parties in the present assembly.

Much of that ought to change today.

As things stand, the Govern-

ment has not moved much to placate the objections of Labour and EEC campaigners.

The Government seems to hold that it is implicit in so far as the Bill is concerned. Mr Callaghan said in a letter to the national executive committee in October: "The United Kingdom should make it clear that in our case any change on the powers of the assembly would require an Act of Parliament and not simply be introduced by an Affirmative Order under the European Communities Act"; but the Bill is silent.

A private member's motion is being debated in the Commons today on a closely related issue. Mr Nigel Spearing, Labour MP for Newham, South, and a hard-edged anti-EEC campaigner, is moving a further strengthening of EEC legislation of commission proposals.

Where the Select Committee on European Legislation has recommended further Commons consideration for such EEC proposals, he is moving that British ministers shall agree to them within the Council of Ministers "until such time as this House has debated the topic".

The Government is waiting on today's debate before deciding how its MPs should vote.

Move by journalists to end Darlington strike

By Christopher Thomas
Labour Reporter

Journalists and printing workers will jointly approach the Westminster Press management this week with proposals to end a 22-week strike by 500 members of the National Union of Journalists, centred on Darlington.

The strike, in support of a closed shop, appears to be a move towards a settlement, although nobody is prepared to discuss details. After a weekend meeting of the NUJ executive, a spokesman said: "We hope to see the employers this week at a key decision point. We cannot force them to do so."

Left-wingers on the NUJ executive see the outcome of strikes as a test case for the future of closed shops in journalism, which are strongly opposed by the Newspaper Society, representing provincial newspaper publishers.

The dispute involving 450 non-based journalists employed by Mirror Group Newspapers was also discussed by NUJ executive. It declared support for the "principled" action taken by MGN journalists in defence of a claim that they should not be paid less than those who processed their work.

A motion called on all NUJ members and members of printing unions to do everything in their power to end the strike and to demonstrate the solidarity and determination of Mirror group

Baronet sued by his mother for return of jewels

Sir Rupert Macdonald, of Orchard Court, Portman Square, London, is to be sued by his mother in the High Court for return of jewels valued at £10,000.

Alicia Lady Macdonald, of Coldstream, Borders, has issued a writ against her son, aged 36, the second baronet, claiming that she has been denied the right to her jewels, which she says are worth £10,000. She says it was agreed that they would be returned on reasonable demand.

Lady Macdonald is also seeking return of loans totalling £3,100, said to have been made between January, 1974, and November last year. The writ has yet to be served.

Britain's top tax rate lower than Sweden and Portugal

Top marginal tax rates on earned income higher than the 83 per cent in the United Kingdom apply in the following countries: Algeria, 100 per cent; Egypt, 95 per cent; Japan, 83 per cent; Portugal, 84 per cent; Sweden, 84 per cent; Tanzania, 95 per cent.

* Includes local income taxes.

Treasury, Nov 16

Tax rate: The standard or basic rate of tax since 1945 has been as follows:

Standard rate: 1945-46, 50 per cent; 1946-47 to 1950-51, 45 per cent; 1951-52 and 1952-53, 47.5 per cent; 1953-54 and 1954-55, 42.5 per cent; 1955-56 to 1958-59, 42.5 per cent; 1959-60 to 1964-65, 33.5 per cent; 1965-66 to 1970-71, 33.5 per cent; 1971-72 and 1972-73, 38.75 per cent.

Basic rate: 1973-74, 30 per cent; 1974-75, 33 per cent; 1975-76 and 1976-77, 35 per cent; 1977-78, 34 per cent.

Basic rate from 1973 to 1974 is not comparable with standard rate owing to the operation of earned income relief for earlier years, and investment income surcharge from 1973 to 1974.

Treasury, Nov 18

Gravestock dispute: Since June 13, 377 police officers have been injured in incidents arising from the picketing of the Gravestock factory.

Home Office, Nov 17

Health service costs: The capital and revenue costs, in pounds a head of population, of the health services, including family practitioner services, in regional health authority areas in England in 1976-77 were respectively as follows:

North-east, 8.02, 91.39; Yorkshire, 6.36, 91.78; Trent, 10.00, 83.44; East Anglia, 7.12, 87.35;

WEST EUROPE

Christian Democrat and Liberal leaders in Holland agree to form a right-wing coalition

From Robert Schull
Amsterdam, Nov 27

There is now every indication that the Netherlands will soon have a right-of-centre government. Parliamentary leaders of the Christian Democrats and the right-wing Liberals have successfully renegotiated an earlier coalition agreement, parts of which were unacceptable to left-wing members of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group.

The new agreement, reached after differences over some 150 points, mostly raised by the Christian Democrats, had been turned out, will be submitted to the parliamentary groups of the two parties on Monday.

Both Mr Hans Wiegel, the Liberal leader and his Christian Democratic opposite number, Mr Andries van Agt, have stated that they are confident that the agreement will be acceptable to their parliamentary groups. Details will not be made public before the parliamentary groups of the two parties concerned start examining them tomorrow.

It is not clear whether Mr Wiegel and Mr van Agt will be submitting the compromise agreement on a vote or

leave it to the voters to decide whether there is room for further adjustment.

Left-wing Christian Democrats were upset about the lack of definition of the economic policies set forth in the original Liberal-Christian Democratic pact, in particular as regards income policy, reduction of government spending and on controversial new scheme on profit sharing.

Acceptance of the proposed programme for a Christian Democratic-Liberal Government by all members of the Christian Democratic parliamentary group is vital as such a coalition would have to survive on a majority of 77 out of the 150-seat parliament. Even a few defections would be sufficient to bring down the new Government.

In the present economic state of the country ill-defined economic policies or weak Government actions are judged as potentially disastrous amid the growing awareness that the revenues from Holland's only natural resource, gas, have masked the real state of the country's economic health.

Recent trade figures indicate that over the first nine months of this year Holland had a

trade deficit of some 4,300 million guilders (nearly £1,000m) while it had a surplus of some 2,500 million guilders over the same period last year.

It is expected that this year's total trade deficit will reach 6,000 million guilders (about £1,350m). Lack of strong measures to improve exports as well as failure to reach agreements at national level on wage increases for 1978 are seen as symptomatic of the fact that the country has been run by a caretaker Government since March.

The Christian Democratic and Liberal parliamentary groups will probably make a final decision on the new proposals either on Monday or Tuesday. Negotiations would then start on the allocation of portfolios between the two parties, after which Queen Juliana is expected to ask Mr Deboer to form the new Government.

This will not be possible before Friday as the Queen leaves on Monday for a four-day state visit to Senegal. She will be accompanied by Prince Bernhard. It will be the royal couple's first foreign state visit since the Lockheed affair in which the prince was involved.

Concorde flights not affected by pilots' strike

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Nov 27

Concorde flights were not affected by the 48-hour strike at the weekend by Air France pilots and mechanics. They decided to make an exception for the super-sonic airliner in order not to disrupt the Paris-New York service just a few days after it had gone into operation. All other flights were seriously disrupted.

The stoppage was in protest at the Government's decision to raise salaries in excess of 30,000 francs (£3,400) a month next year (as well as this year) and to limit the increase in monthly salaries of between 18,000 francs and 30,000 francs to the rise in the cost of living.

They also complain of excessive flying time as a substitute for recruiting more pilots. "Shortage of staff involves weekly working hours of 160, which borders on infringement of international regulations", the air line pilots' union said.

Air France pilots earn between 9,000 francs and 29,000 francs monthly, depending on qualifications and seniority. They fly between 40 and 67 hours a month. They say that the flying time must be multiplied by three to obtain their real working hours. The Government has promised to meet half the cost of the metro, in fact it has met only a quarter.

The metro was necessary because it is silent and non-polluting. The Government has promised to meet half the cost of the metro, in fact it has met only a quarter.

'Defferre's folly' gives Marseilles its metro

From Charles Hargrove
Paris, Nov 27

The metro of Marseilles, the first outside Paris, was inaugurated yesterday with Mediterranean exuberance, folk and pop music, dancing and theatricals, by M Gaston Defferre, the Socialist leader and mayor for a quarter of a century.

Tens of thousands of Marseillais took the opportunity of admiring this new wonder of the world as it rolled on its free for two days.

They commented approvingly on the comfortable white coaches, air sprung and rubber tired, on the gaily decorated stations and the efficiency of the fully automatic service, even if the bill for what has been described as "Defferre's folly" is much steeper than anticipated 15 years ago.

Subsidised regional personalities and guests, Defferre cut the symbolic ribbon at the entrance of the Station de la Rose, which now links the north-eastern district of the city with the Gare Charles at the top of the Canaille, a

Spanish bishops attack draft constitution

From Harry Debellus
Madrid, Nov 27

The Roman Catholic Church, a champion of liberty in the latter years of the Franco regime, yesterday denounced the proposed constitution drawn up by a committee of Parliament.

A spokesman for the National Episcopal Council said after reading the document in Madrid that the bishops objected to the way such matters as divorce, abortion and education were dealt with in the document. The meeting was presided over by Cardinal Enrique y Tarazona, Archbishop of Madrid.

The bishops claim that unless the draft of the constitution is changed, "it will not correspond sufficiently to the religious reality of the Spanish people". They argue that the

constitution should prohibit abortion and divorce, and the stability of matrimony and the integral development of the family.

The reaction to the hierarchy's appraisal of the document was swift. Pedraza, a leading left-wing journalist, whose sketches appear in the newspaper *El País*, showed Cardinal Enrique y Tarazona telling a man: "Render unto God what is God's, and unto God that which is Caesar's."

A leading article in the newspaper accused the hierarchy of interfering in political affairs. During the bishops' press conference, Cardinal Enrique y Tarazona expressed the fear that Spain might change from a secular state to a beligerently anti-confessional state. He maintained: "The state should recognize that we Catholics are a majority."

Basques killed police chief

Pamplona, Nov 27.—Basque separatist guerrillas today claimed responsibility for the killing last night of Major Joaquin Irujo, the Pamplona police chief, the national news agency Cifra reported today.

The killing was apparently intended to sabotage a breakthrough in negotiations between the Spanish Government and political representatives of Basque autonomy, which had been abolished by Franco during the civil war.

Cifra said it received a telephone communication about the killing from a Basque guerrilla organization, ETA—Reuter.

The Spanish Government and political representatives of Basque autonomy, which had been abolished by Franco during the civil war.

Lawyer attacks extradition of Herr Croissant

Reuter, Nov 27.—The

president of France's largest lawyers' union has accused the Government of lacking respect for the law in handling the recent extradition of Herr Klaus Croissant, the Bader-Meinhold defence lawyer.

Herr Croissant was swiftly handed over to West Germany 11 days ago after a French court ruled in favour of his extradition.

M André Braunschweig, the president of the Magistrates' Union, said he deplored the speed with which the Government had acted.—Reuter.

Eternal flame used to fry an egg

Paris, Nov 27.—A young

woman caught trying to fry an egg over the eternal flame at France's Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Paris, told police she did it for a bet. She was arrested and charged with desecration.—Reuter.

European Law Report: Week ended Nov 25

Court of Justice of the European Communities

Lawyer's right to practise in EEC state

Jean Razanatsimba
Lille, France

[Referred for preliminary decision by the Court of Appeal at Douai, France.]

Before the President, Judge H. Ranscher, and Judges M. Sorenson, C. Bosco, A. Donner, J. Mertens de Wilmars, P. Pescatore, A. K. G. de la Cour, and General C. G. Relsch.

M Jean Razanatsimba, who is a national of Madagascar, had obtained the required professional qualifications to practise law in France (Licence en Droit, Certificat d'Aptitude à la Profession d'Avocat) and was currently working in the chambers of a French avocat in Lille.

M Razanatsimba had applied, on February 9, 1976, for admission as a junior counsel to the Lille bar. His application had been refused by the Bar Council (Conseil de l'Ordre). By decision of December 14, 1976, that body had stated that the applicant met all the requirements to practise law in France, with the exception of the requirement that he be of French nationality. That requirement was laid down by (French) law of February 11, 1975, and the EEC (Council) regulation No 240/76, January 30, 1976, of the Council.

As regards the arrangements that may be applied in matters of establishment and provision of

services, the ACP states on the one hand and the member states on the other shall ensure that nationals and companies or firms of the ACP states respectively of a non-discriminatory basis. However, if a given activity, an ACP state or a member state is unable to provide such treatment, the member states or the ACP states, as the case may be, shall not be bound to accord such treatment for this activity to the nationals and companies or firms of the state concerned.

The Lille Bar Council had decided, on December 15, 1976, pursuant to article 177, EEC Treaty, to refer the case to the European Court for interpretation of the provisions of article 62 of the Treaty.

The Court, on the grounds that the Bar Council was not a court or tribunal, held that the Bar Council's decision was purely administrative. The Bar Council was not one of the courts of the land.

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OVERSEAS

Election tide running against Mr Fraser in Australian campaign

From Douglas Aiton
Melbourne, Nov 27

With less than two weeks to go to the Australian general election on December 10, it is clear that the least important factor affecting the voters has been the policy speeches of the two leaders.

Although some may be swayed by Mr Malcolm Fraser, the Prime Minister, has spoken of abolishing death duties and Mr Gough Whitlam, the Labour leader, of abolishing payroll tax, their attention is focused on a series of more complicated events.

The people have displayed a volatility that is perhaps unprecedented in Australia. The organisers of opinion polls have been thrown into confusion, with unexpected events apparently causing vast changes in mood and no attention being paid to those matters that usually hold the public's concern.

One thing is certain: Mr Fraser is in deep trouble and was unwise to call the election. The latest polls are putting the Labour Party ahead, even before the pollsters and public have had time to digest the disastrous implications of the resignations of Mr Phillip Lynch, the Treasurer.

Perhaps more notice should have been taken of a Gallup Poll survey some months ago, when the question was whether Australia had too many elections, and the answer was an overwhelming 65 per cent say yes.

Despite that, Mr Fraser decided to call an election simply because he was sure he could win at the time. He justified his decision with a collection of facts that Britain's reputation for keeping its international obligations now rested with Parliament. If the direct elections did not pass "then make no doubt Britain's stock in Europe will sink to the lowest level since 1958".

Westminster would decide not only direct elections in Britain, but also in the rest of the EEC. The timetable of the EEC, 1978, could be revised if the regional list system was adopted, and that required Tories to behave as patriots rather than partisans, he said.

Some Conservative Europeanists present showed during the day that they dissent from the Government's position. There were some dissenters, too, when Lord George-Brown, in his best form, supported by Lord Duncan-Sandys, the only survivor present of the 1946 that brought post-war European unity, being delivered his call to go the whole hog in Europeanism even at a bad time when support for membership of the EEC had been eroded for wrong reasons that it was not easy to meet in a public debate.

Mr Rippon showed that for direct elections he firmly supports the first past the post system, and refuses to believe that the 1978 conceivable market for the rejection of the regional list system is impracticable.

He said that British Europeanists should give full support to the development of the Community's political, economic and cultural unity. Negotiations with the applicants for entry should be speeded up, and the target of January, 1980, should be set for the entry of Greece.

David Wood column, page 15

The Japanese Cabinet will resign tomorrow and a new Council of Ministers will be appointed to deal with the growing threat of international protectionism. Japan's huge trade surplus and other aspects of the economic crisis, Mr Takeo Fukuda, the Prime Minister, announced yesterday.

Addressing the nation during a televised press conference, he said he had decided to reshuffle the Cabinet because the Government would have to cope with a growing number of critical economic problems during the next few months.

Referring to international pressures against Japan's restrictive trading policy, Mr Fukuda said: "The world is now facing the most crucial turning point in postwar history. It has an uncertainty reminiscent to the eve of the Second World War."

In a vague, apparent attempt to placate Japan's industrialized trading partners, Mr Fukuda claimed that his new Cabinet would take immediate steps to reduce the economy's dependence on imports, and thereby reduce the trade surplus.

The Prime Minister also announced that he would dispatch a special envoy to Washington to urge more protectionism in the United States.

The Government will introduce a special budget in January to stimulate growth and encourage demand for imports during the subsequent 15 months.

But it soon became obvious, during the press conference, that the Prime Minister's plans held out little promise for a marked increase of European exports of manufactured goods to Japan in the immediate future. In essence, Mr Fukuda went on to suggest that Japan's longed-for surplus could be reduced only by an increase of imports of raw materials.

While Mr Fukuda has declared that he is changing the structure of the Cabinet to accommodate new economic pressures, observers believe that the changes have been motivated by political considerations and a steady decline in the Prime Minister's popularity ratings over the last two months.

China begins phasing out party-rivalling 'revcoms'

From David Bonavia
Hongkong, Nov 27

The majority of China's "revolutionary committees"—key administrative organs since 1967—are to be disbanded, according to reports from Peking which are supported by provincial broadcasts.

Abolishing the "revcoms", which brought order into the chaos caused by the Cultural Revolution, is a further sign of the emphasis placed by the present leadership on control by all levels.

Until now, any Chinese institution down to a primary school or small factory has been run by a revolutionary committee consisting of veteran administrators, representatives of the younger staff, and often military men as well.

But during the past few years they have often been used as rivals to the parallel party committees and as arenas for the launching of political struggles between ultra-left and moderate elements.

Japanese and Yugoslav officials in Peking have learnt that the lower-level revolutionary com-

On the surface, the most damaging incident has been the resignation of Mr Leung, after whom it was known that he had been profiting. The aftermath of this has been more disastrous than the event itself, with the scurrying for cover of these government members, including Mr Fraser, on the part of Douglas Anthony, the Deputy Prime Minister, who operates the tax-avoiding family trust companies, which had been a favourite device of Mr Leung in buying and selling property.

As the public sat in, Mr Fraser angrily denounced the campaign as the "dirty" he had ever known. The press rounded to take the view that Mr Fraser had dirtied his hands as much as anyone else.

After this disastrous episode Mr Peter Nixon, the Transport Minister, inquired about the pecuniary interests of a list of Labour leaders, and about the nature of a business called Whitlam Holdings, Mr Whitlam immediately denied any knowledge of the company and it turned out to be owned by his nephew, a banker.

Meanwhile, according to the opinion polls, the rebel centre party, the Australian Democrats, is threatening to take an even larger slice of the vote than expected. It is said that the party would consider voting for them. If this is right, their voters' preferences would decide the election and they could hold the balance of power in the Senate.

Despite these extraordinary turn of events, Mr Fraser's Government, Labour supporters are becoming more nervous. With two weeks to go, Mr Whitlam could easily put his foot in it, as he has shown himself entirely capable of doing before. But he has been lying low, but he must keep calm until the end if he is to win back the prime ministership.

Coastal watch: More spinner aircraft and navy patrol boats are being used to keep watch there has been a definite swing against the Government since the announcement of the campaign, at which time nobody gave Labour a serious chance.

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Japanese Cabinet to resign today

From Peter Hamehurst
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OVERSEAS

New hope of Rhodesia settlement with Bishop Muzorewa's agreement to internal talks

From Frederick Cleary

Salisbury, Nov. 27—Bishop Abel Muzorewa's acceptance over the weekend of an invitation to attend an internal settlement conference has been greeted with relief by the Rhodesian Government. Had he rejected the offer, the government would have collapsed as the bishop's United African National Council represents the largest influential internal African party. Although the bishop previously agreed some time ago to accept Mr Ian Smith's invitation and conditions, there were fears that he might prevaricate as he has done in the past.

Speaking in Salisbury at a party youth rally, the bishop said that by ending the conference Mr Smith had capitulated and succumbed to demands for the transfer of power to the black majority. He called for the British Government to chair the conference, but he said it should proceed if the British refused, with independence coming on September 12, 1978.

He disclosed that he had met Mr Smith a week before and had told the Prime Minister that the UANC would take part in talks if he conceded

universal adult suffrage. It was his understanding that Mr Smith wanted to go along on this basis.

The bishop laid down specific demands to be accepted at the conference. They included the end to all "prisoners of war" or others detained for political reasons; a provision for the safe return of all guerrillas; the talks, he said, must be held openly and the exercise must be completed for independence next year.

The bishop warned the British Government that there should be no chicanery and that behind the scenes—He said the way was clear for a constitutional conference and if the British Government delayed and rushed around consulting people irrelevant to the situation, then it would be known that the British did not care about the suffering and dying in Rhodesia.

Bishop Muzorewa did not suggest excluding the Patriotic Front leadership of Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe from the talks, but he said he was sick and tired of groups and so-called leaders who saw the struggle as a romantic affair and lived comfortably in

the best hotels of Europe and Africa "while our sons and daughters in the bush are dying, daily and suffering".

Echoing Mr Smith's concern about two hundred people a day dying in the civil war, the bishop said: "Our beautiful country is thick with smoke and the groans of the living are heard day and night."

All indications are that as soon as the Prime Minister can get them together, he and the internal black leaders will meet in Salisbury to agree on an agenda for detailed negotiations. Deep suspicion still abounds here, but the cooperative attitude of the internal leaders and the absence so far of much strong external criticism of the internal talks is beginning to raise a few faint flickers of hope.

The only viable reaction so far to the prospect of a black government next year came from the Rhodesian Action Party which accused Mr Smith of surrendering the country. A party spokesman said the Government's action was a flagrant breach of undertakings given to the electorate at the general election in August.

Mr Smith's reaction to the bishop's agreement was not a precondition. "When you go to negotiations without prior conditions, you know the other party has a contrary stand, you assume the negotiations will cause both sides to reassess their positions. Otherwise there is no point in negotiating," he said.

Meanwhile, Mr Smith's decision to consult President Sadat's decision to consult Palestinian leaders from the West Bank and the Gaza Strip about his peace moves, Arab mayors who support the PLO said it was an attempt to cut the organization out of the picture.

Mr Rashid Shawa, Mayor of Gaza, said he personally approved of President Sadat's peace moves but he believed they should be coordinated with the PLO. He said mayors were not in a position to coordinate with the PLO.

Officials in Jerusalem said they had an oil strike in the Gulf of Suez off, occupied



Mr Dayan, the Israeli Foreign Minister, prays for victims of Nazism yesterday at the site of Belsen concentration camp at the start of his four-day visit to West Germany.

Arabs in Israel may consult PLO

Continued from page 1

called the speech "constructive".

The Foreign Minister, who belonged to the Labour Party before he joined Mr Begin's Government, said that his basic position was not a precondition. "When you go to negotiations without prior conditions, you know the other party has a contrary stand, you assume the negotiations will cause both sides to reassess their positions. Otherwise there is no point in negotiating," he said.

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Sadat need not interfere with peace moves. The strike is not far from where Egypt is producing oil but it is not yet clear whether the new field is commercially viable.

Beirut: The PLO announced that it would boycott peace talks in Cairo as efforts continued to draw Iraq into the hard-line opposition to President Sadat.

Preparations are being made for a summit of Arab "hawks" in Tripoli on Thursday, aimed at creating a safe haven for the PLO. Mr. Mahmud Labbadi, a spokesman for the PLO, said the organization would boycott the proposed Cairo meeting and send a delegation to Tripoli instead.

The Tripoli summit is to bring together the leaders of Libya, Algeria, South Yemen, Syria, the PLO and the "rejection front" of commando organizations opposed to a peaceful settlement of the Middle East conflict.

But Iraq, the most consistent hard-line country in the Arab world, has so far resisted diplomatic efforts to persuade it to add its weight to the Tripoli meeting.

Damascus: President Assad will attend the Tripoli summit, officials said today.

The Damascus daily Al-Bath, organ of the ruling Baath Party, on press freedom and democracy, there is nothing about a new building, a priority familiar in many developing countries. Nor does it suggest ways in which future conflicts might be resolved.

Mr. Advani, the Minister of Information and Broadcasting, a former journalist himself, when he wound up a five-day seminar organized by the International Press Institute, said the "adversary role" might be desirable in advanced countries like Britain, but in India, he argued, the press ought rather to be watchdogs, educators and social reformers, all rolled into one.

In demanding the role of adversary to government at all levels, the journalists, who held talks with invited colleagues from Britain, the United States, Italy and France during the seminar, were clearly seeking to compensate for their experience during Mrs Gandhi's emergency.

It is something about the nature of the quality press, that in the seven-point declaration on press freedom and democracy, there is nothing about a new building, a priority familiar in many developing countries. Nor does it suggest ways in which future conflicts might be resolved.

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Prisoners of conscience



Argentina: Adolfo Pérez Esquivel

By David Watts

Senior Adolfo Pérez Esquivel, coordinator of the Service for Justice and Peace in Latin America, was detained by Argentine police on April 4 when he was on a police station in Buenos Aires to collect his passport.

After two days of persistent inquiry by his friends and the filing of a writ of habeas corpus, he was located in the central police headquarters.

Senior Pérez Esquivel, a sculptor and former professor of architecture, was elected coordinator of the service in 1974. It is an ecumenical organization embracing groups throughout the continent and aims to bring about social change by non-violent means.

The organization has started a campaign for human rights through conferences and appeals for action which are publicized in its magazine, *Paz y Justicia*. Its headquarters in Buenos Aires have been visited several times by police in recent months.

In a communiqué issued by the Interior Ministry in April, Señor Pérez Esquivel was described as a detainee in the "subversive" category. He is being held without charge or trial in La Plata prison in Buenos Aires province.

There are fears for the safety of the detainees in La Plata because of evidence that five prisoners were recently unofficially executed between last January and March.

Mr Bhutto refuses to let doctors examine him

From Our Correspondent

Lahore, Nov. 27—Mr Bhutto, Pakistan's former Prime Minister, who is standing trial on a murder charge before the Lahore High Court, has refused to be examined in Lahore jail by a medical board. The board was set up in the instruction of the court after Mr Bhutto's failure to attend the hearings in recent days.

Mr Bhutto's lawyer had insisted the court last week that the former Prime Minister was unable to attend on account of his illness. He was reported to be suffering from malaria and influenza. The lawyer claimed that though Mr Bhutto was not running a temperature, he was too weak to attend.

As the hearing resumed today, the court was told of Mr Bhutto's refusal to be medically examined. Mr Bhutto did not ask for a medical and would not permit doctors to examine him for

Ethiopian forces 'cut off in Harer attack'

Mogadishu, Nov. 27—A large Ethiopian force was trapped in Harer, a strategic town in the Somali forces' drive to capture the strategic mountain city of Harer, rebel sources said here.

The Ethiopians were reported to be at Babile Gap, about 23 miles east of Harer, and were cut off from reinforcements and supplies by guerrillas of the Western Somali Liberation Front (WSLF). The number of soldiers trapped was not known, but observers here believed several thousand could be involved.

Babile Gap was the point where Ethiopian troops, supported by tanks and artillery, had held off the Somali forces since the middle of September, but they were outflanked recently by the rebel forces making a two-pronged attack on Harer.

The Ethiopians were surrounded by at least two groups of rebel forces, which also controlled hills flanking the Ethiopian position, sources said.

Leader of centre party resigns in Greece

From Our Correspondent

Athens, Nov. 27—Mr George Mavros, whose Democratic Centre Union (DCU) suffered a heavy defeat in the recent Greek elections, is to relinquish the party's leadership.

The DCU's parliamentary group is meeting tomorrow to discuss the new situation. The group is composed of 15 deputies, 42 fewer than in the last Parliament. Mr John Papanastasiou, a leading economist, is said to be the likeliest successor.

The party lost nearly half its votes, polling barely 12 per cent of the total and losing its position as the main opposition party to the Socialist Movement (PASOK) of Mr Andreas Papandreu.

Mr Mavros, who is 68, has been in politics for more than 30 years. He was a leading

member of the Liberal Party and later of the Centre Union under the late George Papandreu. He played an active part in the resistance against the German occupation of Greece during the war.

In a statement announcing his resignation, he urged the party to preserve its unity and cohesion. He said: "The end of the Democratic Centre is a national disaster. Its presence in politics is a guarantee for democratic normalcy and for the defence of our national interests."

Mr Mavros, during a meeting of the party's central committee, said he assumed full moral and political responsibility for the party's defeat. The party had been caught unprepared by the Government's decision to advance the election date by a year.

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Cape Province liberals face two-sided challenge in Wednesday's poll

From Gerald Shaw

Cape Town, Nov. 27—The general election in the Cape Province offers no more than elsewhere in South Africa a contest between the Afrikaner Nationalist Government of Mr Vorster.

Only whites will vote on Wednesday, as Coloureds (mixed race) were removed from the common roll in the 1950s. Affirmative action, which on the number English-speaking ones by a comfortable margin. The Nationalists are, therefore, safe as long as they maintain the unity of Nationalist Afrikaners. This is reinforced by an electoral system which allows constituencies to be loaded or unloaded so that rural constituencies may in extreme cases hold half the number of voters of densely populated urban ones.

As rural constituencies are overwhelmingly Afrikaans-speaking and Nationalist, and urban ones are English-speaking and anti-Nationalist, the effect is to tilt the scales in favour of the Nationalist vote.

In the Cape Province, the interest is in the Cape peninsula and in the Eastern Province, the 1820 settler country of Grahamstown, Port Elizabeth and East London.

The Karoo hinterland, and the wine producing Western Province are solidly Afrikaner Nationalist.

In the Cape peninsula, apart from Dr Worrall, the National Party has put up an English-speaking candidate in the industrial suburb of Matfield, where the conservative racial attitudes of lower-income whites may swing the vote in its favour.

Against the Progressive Federal Party, which is liberal indeed by South African standards.

But the main battle in the peninsula will be between the New Republic Party, which is also trying to capitalize on white racial fears, and the Progressive Federal Party.

Dr Alec Bormine, a Methodist minister and a holder of liberal causes, is fighting for his political life in the middle-class suburb of Pinelands against the New Republican Party candidate, Mr David Graaf, son of Sir de Villiers Graaf, the former leader of the Opposition. A number of other Progressive Federal Party seats are also in danger. But Mr Eglin, the party leader and Dr Vorster's son-in-law, the Afrikaner theoretician, should be safe in their upper-income constituencies of Sea Point and Rondebosch respectively.

Cape Town suburbs are plastered with Nationalist placards in English, saying: "This time I vote Nationalist."

There is a similar pattern in English-speaking Eastern Cape, a region where English group consciousness remains very strong, and which does not look promising for Afrikaner Nationalism. But some Eastern Cape seats like King William's Town may be vulnerable if there really is a swing.

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Black township riot after detainee's burial

Krugersdorp, Nov. 27—A young black was wounded by South African police fire and another was killed when he fell under a bus during disorders after the funeral here yesterday of a detainee, according to the police.

General David Kriel, the head of riot police, said police opened fire when about 3,000 blacks attacked them after the funeral of Bonaventura Sibho Malaza, a black student, in the township of Katlehong. According to the authorities, Mr Malaza had hanged himself in his cell.

One black was wounded by the police volley. General Kriel explained that another young black died when he fell under one of two buses the crowd had blocked.—Retur.

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Mrs Broz still out of sight

Belgrade, Nov. 27—For the first time in 25 years, President Tito played host to yesterday's national day reception without his wife, Jovanka, absent from public life for three months.

Wives of heads of state were not invited, this time, contrary to previous practice. The President looked in good humour. It had been thought he would use the occasion to slip his wife back into the limelight.

Five die as express engine blows up

Berlin, Nov. 27—Five people were killed and 30 injured today when the boiler of an East German steam locomotive pulling an express train blew up, sending fire and smoke billowing from the front.

Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Leading article, page 15

Gunman kills one, wounds 25 in dining club

Omaha, Nebraska, Nov. 27—An unemployed Vietnam war veteran fired six quick shots from a shotgun into a dining club crowded with more than 200 people last night, killing an off-duty police captain and wounding 25 others.

Ernest Cribbs, aged 32, was arrested without resistance about five hours later at his Omaha home. He held on to a copy of first degree murder and three counts of shooting with intent to kill, wound or maim.

He just said he was angry. Police Lieutenant Foster Burdard said—UPI.

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A reprieve from ephemerality

is, because writing about the game was not considered worthy. The *Daily Mail* and its stable companion, the *Illustrated London News*, used to lead their copyrights to the venture. And, incidentally, the majority of the articles came from a few quality newspapers, a gratifying but not a very large number of them from New Printing House Square. Without this hook they would have been lost in our readers' library or bookshelves.

In addition to the fine array of professional talents that transfer the movement and emotion of sport to the static and emotionless print, there are the writers of quips and deliriums: Alan Cline on the ethics of praying to God to win; Laurence Cleave on the only football boxing promoter; John Clareville scathingly positive on football tactics; and Geoffrey Green continuing his life-long romance with words and incidentally football.

There are some glaring omissions. In sports writing more than in most forms of poetry each man's meat is another man's meat. There is no room here indicated that does not deserve this reprieve from ephemeralism. On the evidence of this new book, which hopes to become an annual, the book is a first-class, lively, thoughtful, witty and does credit to the profession. That is not the whole story. This is the crux. But the book is a second reading for those long spellbound evenings.

Middlesex yield their title amid encircling gloom

Johnson's resources drained

in the fourth round. Traversaro changed his tactics and charged on the inside of the crowd. Johnson up in clinches wore the British boxer's more powerful punches. Traversaro, however, was the Italian becoming increasingly confident after deciphering Johnson's strategy. Finally, his supporters were wild, he switched from a defensive and cautious start to the offensive. Traversaro's punches were more powerful and more mobile than Johnson's. Johnson seemed to tire and, his technically superior and more mobile opponent managed to spend more time on the inside of the crowd. Johnson rocked Traversaro in the third round. But until the fourth round the boxer from Italy was the more powerful. Johnson, ducking and weaving, hurt Traversaro with stringing left hooks and jabs, but his famous right hand was not effective. In the fourth, fifth, sixth and seventh round the bout became a struggle of attrition. Johnson, reaching each other's body close quarters with the faster Italian taking a slight advantage in the exchanges.

Test for US champion

[illegible]

Shearer wins tournament by one stroke

Skating

Klammer in good start to the season

Craxi-Mosmann, Switzerland.
No. 27—Franz Klammer, the Olympic champion, of Austria, won the men's opening event of the 1977-78 slide season here today with a convincing victory in the world series downhill competition. Klammer, who turns 24 next week, clocked 2min 8.07sec. It was a difficult race because of quick melt and falling snow.

Erik Bakke, of Norway, who came second, and Peter Winkberger, also of Austria, who was third, were able to keep within 10m of Klammer for the 2.4 mile track, with its vertical drop of 3,215ft, in the Valais Alps. But the other competitors in the field of 50 skiers from 11 countries were well behind.

Austria now stand 12 points in the lead in the world series as a result of Klammer's victory today and Annemarie Moser's win yesterday in the women's world series is an eighteenth consecutive victory for Austria's teams. It serves as a warm-up contest for the World Cup competition beginning next month.

RESULTS	1. F. Klammer (Austria)	2. E. Bakke (Norway)	3. P. Winkberger (Austria)
Time	02.07sec.	2.18	2.20
4. Moser (Austria)	2.26	5. Seed (Australia)	2.35
6. J. Schuster (Austria)	2.40	7. P. Frank (Italy)	2.55
8. J. Schuster (Austria)	3.00	9. J. Schuster (Austria)	3.05
10. J. Schuster (Austria)	3.05	11. J. Schuster (Austria)	3.10

Klammer in good start to the season

Cable-Montana, Switzerland, Nov. 27.—Franz Klammer, the Olympic champion, of Austria, won the men's opening event of the 1977-78 ski season here today with a convincing victory in the world series downhill competition. Klammer, who turns 24 next week, clocked 2min 8.87 sec in difficult conditions of rough snow and falling temperatures.

Erik Haker, of Norway, who came second, and Peter Winsberger, also of Austria, who was third, were able to keep within 2min 9 sec for the 2.4 mi track, with Haker finishing at 3:21.87, and Winsberger at 3:21.85.

The race was held on the slopes of the Valais Alps. But the other competitors in the field of 50 skiers from 11 countries were well behind.

Austria now stand 12th place in the lead in the world series as a result of Klammer's victory, while Norway are 15th, after Wöger's win yesterday in the women's downhill race. The world series is an eight-race event for men's and women's teams. It serves as the warm-up competition for the World Cup competition beginning next month.

RESULTS: 1. F. Klammer (Austria), 2min 8.87 sec; 2. E. Haker (Norway), 3:21.87; 3. P. Winsberger (Austria), 3:21.85; 4. J. Krieger (Austria), 3:25.45; 5. J. Krieger (Austria), 3:25.45; 6. H. Mann (Austria), 3:26.05; 7. H. Mann (Austria), 3:26.05; 8. H. Mann (Austria), 3:26.05.

Great Britain II men in drama with spinnaker

Auckland, Nov. 27.—Rob James, skipper of a Round the World Race yacht, Great Britain II, which arrived here yesterday said that a spinaker brace could have cost him his life if he had not saved his lives in icy Antarctic seas.

Great Britain II was the second boat to arrive here at the end of the 100-day second leg from the city of London, one day behind Ruse Knox-Johnston's Heath's Conqueror, which arrived yesterday after 31 days of sailing.

James told reporters that 11 days ago, a rope spinaker brace wrapped itself around his legs and Dunlop's waist as they tried to drop the big sail. The sail snagged into the sea and the rope brace started to pull both men off the deck.

They jammed themselves against the lifelines, fighting to stay on board. Dunlop passed out as the boat pitched and James told the press that he was losing the feeling in his legs. Other crew came to the rescue, but Dunlop was in bad shape. James said. However, Dunlop was saved morphine and oxygen was to treatment, added.

—Reuter.

That Arthur Scargill is a wickedness of incentive beyond doubt; his sincerity is in question. But the weaknesses must be obvious.

more so now than ever," once leaders on the NUM, "once putting advertisements in the newspapers with what they say are facts. On the surface it's Arthur Scargill is showing no signs at this public disavowal. A. is clearly not as confident as he appears: a once NCB official and a man who has been a union leader and knows him well met in the 48 hours before he was elected. Arthur Scargill looked so deeply anxious about defeat he seemed pale and frantic."

Timing, the proverbial line, is always eye for the moment. Arthur Scargill to power in less than 10 years ago, A. leadership largely dominated the miners, and growing discontent among the rank and file, with the oil price increases, and the miners' strike of 1972. Arthur Scargill, a trade union leader, worked with a mindless energy to marshal the ranks of pickets and emerged as the "hero of Saltaire" (the village closed by a huge and militant Birmingham workers). If he

How King Arthur rules over his castle of coal



More than the imprecision of some of his talking—he is accused of being a "man with no intellectual clothes"—an energetic action man who refuses to confront the industrial problem facing the industry today—it is the bitterness of his attacks that confounded his listeners. He was so scornful and dismissive of former allies, like Mr. Bean for his role in the productivity scheme, and his opponents on the NUM executive, as he is outspoken about the inefficiencies of the Coal Board, which he described to me as "mauled by many chiefs and not enough Indians." At least some time his remarks were taken seriously by the men with labels NCB men are not, even if they are distinctly wary of him. "He can deliver the goods, and when he says he'll do something, he does it," said one man in Doncaster.

was evidence to the Letchford master inquiror as "brilliant". If university was more so in his life, it also marked the greatest success in a career that is highly unusual in this union.

Arthur Scargill is our finest example of a professional NUM member said a long standing NUM member said.

Such a change in style can seem threatening."

Number 2 Huddersfield Road, Barnsley, is the union office for the Yorkshire area, a grey Victorian building by a busy roundabout. When Arthur Scargill arrived here as compensation agent in 1972 he brought with him an immediate and symbolic wind of change.

be, becoming more humorous and light hearted as his confidence has grown. It is as if he can now afford to joke.

There is about him, though, an absolute refusal to conform, an intransigence that is both impressive and, combined with such power and presentation, disconcerting. He seems to welcome all references to himself as the enfant terrible of the nation. "Ah, you want to come to Car-ol?" he said with a certain amount of self-mockery when I asked whether I could visit him in Barney's. There is no doubt he takes pleasure in being King Arthur, a rebel who, as more than one man put it, has "plenty of cheek".

Caroline Moorehead
 @Tues 11/11/14 11:11 AM

Stock Exchange Prices

Capitalization and week's change

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings Began Today. Dealings End, Dec. 9. \$ Contango Day, Dec. 12. Settlement Day, Dec. 20
\$ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

(Current market price multiplied by the number of shares in issue for the stock quoted)

1. *Journal of Management Studies*, 1990, 27, 1, 1-14.

**Henry
Butcher & Co**
Incorporating
Leopold Farmer & Sons

[illegible]



THE TIMES

BUSINESS NEWS

Problems faced
by America's
car makers,
page 21

MPs' watchdog committee urged to investigate terms of Polish ships deal

By Peter Hill
Industrial Correspondent

The Public Accounts Committee has been asked to initiate an urgent and wide-ranging investigation into the terms of the controversial £115m Anglo-Polish shipbuilding deal.

This emerged yesterday as efforts were being made to prevent the loss of a large slice of the contract to Lysiane, because of an overtime ban by striking workers. Failure to secure guarantees from the firm will lead to the reallocation of the £52m seven-ship package to other yards, with several hundred redundancies at Swan Hunter.

Mr Michael Gwyll, MP, vice-chairman of the Opposition's Industry Committee, said yesterday that he had written to Mr Edward du Cann, MP, chairman of the Public Accounts Committee (PAC), asking him to convene an emergency session to investigate the deal.

His request, he explained, followed the refusal of Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, to place a copy of the contract signed last week between British Shipbuilders and the Polish government in the House of Commons Library on the grounds that the terms of the deal were "commercially confidential".

The PAC, Parliament's watchdog on government spending,



Mr Michael Gwyll: Parliament must be given details.

could, Mr Gwyll said, provide details by questioning Mr Varley and other ministers, together with Whitehall officials and executives of British Shipbuilders.

It would be able to establish the extent of the subsidy given to the Poles, terms of the charter arrangements, the number of jobs saved and the number threatened by the operation of the ship.

Mr Gwyll said that the deal also examined the terms of the charter arrangements, the number of jobs saved and the number threatened by the operation of the ship.

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efforts continued over the weekend to find a solution to the impasse at Swan Hunter, where 1,700 outfitting workers have refused to lift their 13-week overtime ban in support of demands for pay parity with boilermakers.

Lifting the ban and guaranteeing full cooperation would lead to confirmation of the order by British Shipbuilders, which has set a deadline of midnight Friday for a decision, but would be prepared to reconsider if there were a change of heart.

Japanese yards are taking a fresh interest in the ships.

Mr John Chaloner, general secretary of the Boilermakers Society and a part-time member of the state corporation board, said he had been in touch with the Polish shipbuilders' executives over the weekend to try to develop some new initiative to prevent Swan Hunter's losing the order.

British Shipbuilders said that it was in a position to reallocate the order by tomorrow or Wednesday unless there was a change of heart from the Poles.

Mr David Hanson, chairman of the outfitting shop stewards' committee, said the workers recognised the importance of the order, but it was the management for failing to take action to resolve the dispute several weeks ago.

Mr Hanson said that the deal also examined the terms of the charter arrangements, the number of jobs saved and the number threatened by the operation of the ship.

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IMF team sees Bank officials today as talks on Britain's 1978 targets enter second week

By David Blake

Britain's talks with the International Monetary Fund enter their second week today with a visit by the fund team led by Mr Alan Whitehead, to the Bank of England.

The talks seem to be proceeding smoothly but it is not yet possible to say whether the end of this week's fund officials' continued their detailed examination of prospects for the United Kingdom economy and the corporation's targets for next year.

There seems to have been no change in government thinking about the desirability of the financial package announced in April for both Public Sector Borrowing and Domestic Credit Expansion during the next consultation with the fund.

DCS is the sum of bank lending to the private sector and to the Government and thus provides a measure of credit created within the British economy. The Government is known to want a ceiling con-

siderably above the £5,000m target forecast at the time of the Letter of Intent, agreeing terms with the IMF at the end of 1976.

At present, a figure of around £7,000m to £7,500m seems roughly in line with government thinking because the surplus on the current account balance of payments is likely to be around £1,000m below the £2,000m to £3,000m expected in December 1976.

In practice, the Government is more directly concerned with the money supply targets which it feels influence domestic inflation, such as the inflation rate. Since the money supply is equal to DCS and the balance of payments surplus added together, a smaller payments surplus means there has to be greater expansion of domestic credit to achieve any given increase in the money supply.

However, the Government remains determined not to set rigid targets for DCS. This determination not to become too committed too far in

advance applies even more strongly to the "performance criteria"—the secret quarterly figures which the annual figures are broken down to enable the fund and the Government to monitor United Kingdom progress.

There seems to be no great desire for a large increase in the £8,600m target for public sector borrowing next year which, on the basis of an unpublished Treasury forecast assuming 15 per cent earnings growth, is thought to suggest room for about £1,500m tax cuts in the April Budget.

The feeling in Whitehall seems to be that problems of Government funding of its deficit and the money supply constraints would make a higher ceiling than that of little use.

One other issue to be resolved during the coming talks is the possibility that the United Kingdom might repay some of the money borrowed from the IMF with the first drawing of \$800m being mentioned as a possibility. Al-

though the Government does not like the idea of giving up medium-term funds, there would probably be no insuperable barrier to this, and the fund is desperately short of money.

Fund officials pleaded in Paris last week for an increase in quotas of around 75 per cent, saying that lack of funds was hampering their ability to negotiate arrangements with countries in trouble. Its staff argues that the refusal of countries such as Portugal to accept the tough terms being proposed for an IMF loan is caused by the fact that so little money is available that it is hardly worth a country's while taking it. More money could lead to tighter conditions, fund officials argue.

Repayment by Britain would do little to help, however, since most of the money for the United Kingdom came from the special facility of the General Arrangements to Borrow of the Group of 10 industrial countries, and it would go back to them, not to the fund itself.

When 4 pc jobless adds up to full employment

What is full employment? The idealist might argue that it exists when everybody who wants a job and can work has a job. The realist would contend that it must be defined in terms of unemployment, as there will always be some people at least temporarily out of work owing to the very structure of modern capitalist society.

American law is no guide to the solution to this question. The Full Employment Act of 1946, the major piece of legislation that specifically commits the government to take all necessary actions to secure high employment, fails to set a specific figure.

To remedy this, Senator Hubert Humphrey and Representative Augustus Hawkins sought some years ago to pre-empt a Bill that defined full employment as existing when no more than 3 per cent of the workforce was on the dole.

The proposal caused acute academic controversy, and while many academics have agreed that a 3 to 4 per cent unemployment range was a realistic definition of full employment, a decade or two ago, many scholars now believe that a 4.5 to 5 per cent level is more realistic.

Mr Humphrey and Mr Hawkins battled for their Bill, not just against the academics, but more important, against the Republicans and the powerful business lobbies.

Many businessmen feared the Bill would lead to the establishment of large new government bureaus, more economic planning (which Mr Humphrey favours), and multitudes of public works programmes.

The net effect, the critics said, would be an undermining of the free enterprise system and a sharp inflationary increase in the Federal government's budget deficit.

The Humphrey-Hawkins Bill, however, became a rallying point across the nation for liberal Democrats, and last year Mr Jimmy Carter knew he had to support it to win his party's nomination and the Presidential election. Since he took office in January he has sought to avoid the controversial hot potato, but finally he has reached an agreement.

A Bill will go to Congress next year, but the President has managed to ensure that it does not come to full employment as his Government's top economic policy priority. Instead, fighting inflation is given even rank.

Indeed, the President has so managed to change the Bill that its passage by Congress should give no sleepless nights to conservatives. The measure will be largely symbolic, establishing a definition for full employment at the 4 per cent level on the basis of the book for the first time—a definition many academics believe reflects the idealism of Mr Humphrey and Mr Hawkins, rather than the realities of the modern American economy.

Frank Vogt

BBC switch expected to boost radio sales

By Our Commercial Editor

Some leading suppliers of radio sets are preparing to ask heavily for an expected boom in sales when the BBC switches the band locations of its radio programmes.

Many existing sets of the cheaper, largely imported, two-band variety, sold in large numbers between 1973 and 1975, are unlikely to give the coverage wanted after next November.

Such two-band models often cover only medium wave and the very high frequency (VHF) bands. One of the changes to be made is to move the medium wave transmissions.

Dial displays marking the tuning spots for BBC and other stations will be outdated by the changes.

The size of the potential market for the replacement of the big switch-to-be the subject of a substantial public information campaign next year—is a matter of some debate among

British makers. Rank Radio, a leading British supplier, with all its components imported, is forecasting a 25 per cent increase in the market next year.

Mr Peter Booth, Rank's commercial manager for the radio sector, said: "With publicity on the band changes and the fact that many sets will be an enormous difference to portable radio sales."

"We believe most people will switch to three-band radios, a contributory factor being that the imported two-band radios that were selling so well in the early seventies will be coming to the end of their life span."

Not all makers are as optimistic about the sales effect of the changes. At Philips Radio, one of the few makers still producing radios in Britain, Mr Jeffrey Dickman, sales manager, is not expecting a big surge in sales around November but only a gradual "filter" effect, as the public becomes aware of the changes affecting their sets.

Fidelity, which picks out station names on its radio dials, will be putting through adjusted dial markings early in the new year.

Disciplinary move by accountants

By Nicholas Hirst

A committee is likely to be set up next week to consider how to implement the recently published Cross report on the disciplinary procedures of the accountancy profession.

It will include members of all three accountancy bodies to which the report was made: the Institute of Chartered Accountants in England and Wales, the Scottish Institute and the Association of Certified Accountants.

Although a chairman has not yet been appointed, it is understood that Mr John Grenside, senior partner of Peat, Marwick, Mitchell and a former president of the English Institute, has been approached and is prepared to take on the job.

The Cross report recommended that the accountancy bodies should consider cases of bad workmanship by accountants where the public interest was involved, and suggested that the accountancy bodies investigate whether they could gain arbitration powers to compel third-party witnesses to appear before hearings.

It is far from certain whether the accountants could gain such powers.

BSC crisis questions for ministers

By Our Industrial Correspondent

Two ministers at the centre of the gathering storm created by the financial crisis at the British Steel Corporation face close questioning this week on the measures they propose.

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, and Mr Gerald Kaufman, his Minister of State, are to appear before the Select Committee on Nationalized Industries which has reopened its investigation into the BSC after the deterioration in the corporation's fortunes since the committee formally closed its investigation in the summer.

But neither Mr Varley nor Mr Kaufman expects to reveal much of what is planned, since the final shape of the measures has still not been decided. It will be some weeks before Mr Varley is able to make a formal statement to the Commons.

The committee has already spoken to Sir Charles Villiers, the BSC chairman, Mr Bill Sirs, secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation and Mr Joel Barnett, Chief Secretary to the Treasury. Against the background of a half-year loss of £201m and expected losses for the full year of at least £500m, Mr Barnett made it clear that no alleviation of the £500m cash limit was planned.

The Government is known to be anxious to maintain a reasonable level of investment by the BSC to make up for shortfalls in the past, but it is becoming clear that the changed market circumstances throughout the world will involve a reshaping and redefining of the development plan.

Some projects have already been postponed.

Unions have demanded that investment be maintained, and this is a necessary condition of any pact which will involve the accepted need for a reduction in the BSC's manning levels.

Efficiency of mergers queried in Whitehall

By Derek Harris

Increasing Whitehall concern over evidence that big companies created by mergers often lead either to little increase in efficiency, or even to a less efficient use of resources, is a subject which is being looked at in a review of government competition policy. Details of this review have been promised this week by Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection.

Evidence has been accumulating from various academic studies, mainly in Britain and the United States. The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) has also been sponsoring research into the problem, and the preliminary results of this research support the general view of other academic studies.

One problem for the Government is that the evidence accepted so far tends to be based on studies of the industrial sector, rather than on studies of the services sector.

Nevertheless, wider-ranging powers for government agencies monitoring competition and intervening to promote competition are likely to be the outcome of the competition policy review. It might even bring into the net the operations of large conglomerates whose individual sectors are active on the face of it, but whose overall effect is a near monopoly problem.

Ideas used in the Swedish system for surveillance of prices and cartels are expected to figure in the Government's plan for changing the present system.

The aim is to eliminate the overlap existing between the OFT, the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, the Price Commission and the Restrictive Practices Court.

Last week Mr Hattersley stated that in the long term a single body could replace the functions of the OFT, the Monopolies Commission, the Price Commission and the Restrictive Practices Court.

the two could operate individually.

A change would be a matter for the next government, for establishing a new structure is thought to be at least two years away.

In the Swedish system the Price and Cartel Office largely combines the roles of the British Price Commission and Monopolies Commission. But it is an anti-trust ombudsman who judges cartel cases, a function performed in the United Kingdom by the Monopolies Commission.

In the British system the strictly legal basis on which the Monopolies Commission operates can be shown to be too inflexible as commercial situations alter, but the Swedish system is rather more flexible.

The ombudsman—who also has an opposite number looking at strictly consumer interests—relies a great deal on negotiations to eliminate harmful effects of restraints on competition.

With a British adaptation of the Swedish system it would not be necessary to create such an ombudsman system, but the sort of flexibility possessed by the United Kingdom Price Commission would probably be desirable.

The basic philosophy of the new Price Commission is to build up an efficiency audit, particularly of the leading British companies.

Sweden's Price and Cartel Office has powers greater than those of the United Kingdom Price Commission to order businesses to produce data. The Monopolies Commission is the only body with such extensive powers of access to information.

The putting together of the two bodies with greater powers ranging widely in the monitoring of efficiency as well as pricing policies in industry, would be a potent competition agency. Probably the OFT would be given greater powers in tackling "restrictive" practices

Verdict soon on NEB's finance role

By Our Industrial Editor

Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, is hoping to make a statement within the next few weeks on the financial duties of the National Enterprise Board.

The NEB has an interim capital structure, but the Government is taking the view that final decisions on capital arrangements need not delay the outcome of Treasury and Department of Industry negotiations on financial duties in respect of the board's investments.

One problem, of course, is the difficulty in setting target returns on capital employed in British Leyland and Rolls-Royce as these companies face obvious difficulties. It is known that consideration of rates of return to be earned on other investments is well advanced.

With Treasury approval and after consultation with Mr Leslie Murphy, the NEB's chairman, Mr Varley is statutorily required to determine the board's various financial duties so that they can achieve an adequate return on the capital employed.

In a statement, it is likely that Mr Varley will need to make some allowance for Leyland's performance, particularly when Mr Michael Edwards, the new chairman, has only just begun reviewing the organization and will no doubt wish to review Leyland's corporate plan. This in turn concerns the NEB's own corporate plan, which is not yet available.

In the case of Rolls-Royce, however, the Government appears to have concluded that its future performance should be directed towards achieving a commercial rate of return.

However, a recent Treasury minute stated: "In setting the rate of return, account will certainly be taken of the need to provide for an adequate contribution towards the company's future capital needs."

In brief

International Chamber to vote on bribery code

British and American businessmen will tomorrow press industrial leaders from more than 50 countries to accept international measures aimed at curbing bribery and corruption in business and politics.

The council of the International Chamber of Commerce will be asked to vote on proposals put forward by a special commission, chaired by Lord Havers, which has already significantly softened its original recommendations in an effort to accommodate strong European criticism.

Thames Board Mills plans \$60m expansion

Investment of nearly £60m is planned by the Unilever subsidiary, Thames Board Mills for a substantial expansion of its factory at Workington in Cumbria. If the project goes ahead, it will be the largest investment in the British paper and board industry for several years.

The project is subject to Government approval for loans and grants of between £5m and £10m, being made available towards its cost under the Industry Act.

Balfour Beatty projects

Balfour Beatty Construction has announced contracts worth more than £4m. The largest, valued at £1.6m, is for road and bridge works in Southampton. Other works are for a water pumping station at Nottingham, a defence at Cleethorpe and a new construction works for a new refinery on Merseyside.

£1.45m bridge contract

John Howard, civil engineering contractor, has won a £1.45m contract for the construction of a railway bridge on the line to Canterbury East in Kent.

CBI studies 'inflationary' Employment Act awards

By Our Industrial Editor

A detailed investigation has been started by the Confederation of British Industry into the impact on companies of Schedule 11 of the Employment Protection Act. Under this section of the Act higher wages can be won for workers whose terms and conditions are below general levels for comparable jobs elsewhere.

In the meantime the CBI has expressed its concern to the Government about what it calls seriously inflationary and disruptive implications of Schedule 11 claims against employers.

Although the statutory provision was not brought in until January this year, the Central Arbitration Committee has already dealt with 100 claims, and there are many more in the pipeline awaiting decisions.

Schedule 11 sets out a procedure whereby a trades union can put in a claim to the committee that an employer is either not observing recognized conditions, where they exist by national or industry agreement, or that there are no recognized terms and conditions, where the employer is not following the relevant general level of terms and conditions.

The CBI says a number of unsatisfactory decisions have been drawn to its attention, including highly inflationary awards, and others that upset longstanding differentials or disrupt company industrial relations structures. It is also claiming that decisions so far lack consistency.

The confederation is now asking all companies and employers' organizations to help to monitor every Schedule 11 award in preparation for further submissions to the Government.

Suspended chiefs of Rome bank not to be replaced yet

From John Bark

Rome, Nov 27—Banco di Roma is to remain for the present without new joint managing directors in place of Signor Mario Barone and Signor Giovanni Guidi, who have been suspended pending the investigation of possible charges against them in connection with the Sindona affair.

Instead a board meeting at the end of last week decided to give additional powers of direction and coordination to Signor Leopoldo Medugno, the chairman, and to strengthen the bank's executive committee.

Signor Barone and Signor Guidi have been formally notified by a Milan magistrate that charges are being investigated against them of concealing or suppressing documentary evidence of illegal currency

exports to Switzerland by clients of the Sindona bank.

The alleged offences date back to the second half of 1974, when Banco di Roma took over the main Italian banking and property interests of Signor Michele Sindona shortly before the collapse of his empire.

Signor Medugno came to Banco di Roma only last year to be its personally involved in the events under investigation.

Meanwhile reports circulated at the weekend that a rescue operation is being discussed for the big ex-Sindona property company Signorale Generale Immobiliare, in which Banco di Roma still has an 11 per cent holding.

The plan, according to these reports, would be for Generale Immobiliare to lighten its serious indebtedness by selling properties to creditor banks.

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MANAGEMENT

Edited by Rodney Cowton

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Green Shield's road to redemption

For Green Shield stamps, which in June lost about 20 per cent of its business through the defection of Tesco, the road to redemption may lie through sales of mass of soup for 2p, tins of baked beans for 1p each and packs of 20 Rothman's cigarettes for 36p.

To get these prices customers hand over Green Shield stamps as well as cash in about 1,000 supermarkets.

The discount scheme was launched last week as one of a series of measures by Green Shield to recover from the loss of Tesco, which was its biggest customer.

It involves a radical shift in policy. For the first time shopkeepers will be allowed to use trading stamps in part exchange for selected lines of groceries in the stores that take part. Previously stamps could be redeemed only by the bookholder (of 1,280 stamps) for durable goods, or cash, at Green Shield's own chain of "gift" centres.

The scheme is aimed at attracting new franchise holders as well as stamp collectors. For shoppers it cuts down the time taken saving up the stamps; as they need collect only a quarter of a book, or 320 stamps.

More importantly, it enables supermarket franchise holders to advertise eye-catching discounts of 80 per cent or more as a response to Tesco's price-cutting campaign.

The possibility that the link with Tesco, one of Green Shield's oldest customers might be broken became apparent as early as February, when talks started on renewing the contract.

It was recognized from the beginning that a break with Tesco would have serious consequences for Green Shield. The 700 franchises held by the group, estimated to be worth £15m, represented about a fifth of Green Shield's turnover.

At this stage the company, which was also running into difficulties from petrol franchise holders, who accounted for 15 per cent of turnover, started to look urgently for new ideas. An executive team, including Mr Tom McAuliffe, then joint managing director of Argos (Green Shield's sister company), came up with the "Super Discount" plan.

The timing of the launch, the day before the much publicized announcement of Tesco's first financial results since its dropping trading stamps, is unlikely to have been accidental. Tesco's figures show that a 40 per cent improvement in turnover gained mainly from replacing stamps with direct price cutting, had not been matched



The loss of the 700 Tesco franchises, representing a fifth of turnover, posed serious problems for the Green Shield trading stamp company. A "Super Discount" scheme, which allows stamps to be traded for groceries, was one of the answers devised by a team led by Chief Executive Mr Tom McAuliffe (above).

with an equivalent rise in profits.

By coinciding with these discouraging results, Green Shield undoubtedly hoped that its new scheme would carry more weight with any franchise holders contemplating following Tesco's example.

It is too soon to gauge the success of Green Shield's "Super Discount" plan in Britain. But in America, where the system has been in use for the last four or five years, the preliminary signs are that the scheme is proving popular—it will go some way towards recouping the company's lost business.

Green Shield's charges to franchise holders are based on their turnover, at a rate varying between 2 and 21 per cent depending on the nature and size of the outlets. In return it claims to achieve for new franchise holders an increase in sales of 30 per cent in the first

four weeks of operation compared with the preceding four weeks.

Mr McAuliffe, who moved in as chief executive in September, says that it is customary to reinvest the first year's profit from a new franchise holder in extra promotion to see that the turnover increase is maintained.

However, before implementing its plans to win new grocery business, the company decided first to tackle its petrol filling station problems. It had become common practice for garages faced with intense price competition to charge motorists who accepted stamps a higher price for their petrol.

Mr McAuliffe says they were selling trading stamps—a practice which was considered to be undesirable on several counts.

The decision was taken to clamp down on double pricing, even though it was recognized that this would mean some loss of business. At least 300 of the 8,000 garages which operated under the stamps scheme to open, our correspondent. Of the remainder at least 2,000 co-

operated fully with a "fair deal" publicity scheme—in which Green Shield gave 120 stamps free to customers.

As well as striving to build up its revenue and bring recalcitrant franchise holders into line, Green Shield has also sought to cut costs. In July, a month after Tesco departed, 30 of the 500 head office staff were made redundant as part of a purge on administrative overheads.

The number of "gift" shops has been reduced from 89 to 54, with the loss of 261 full-time jobs and 287 part-time staff.

The latest "Super Discount" move, by enabling exchanges to be made through supermarkets, greatly increases the redemption facilities at little extra cost—though, working again from American experience, Mr McAuliffe expects that a total of only about 15 per cent of trading stamp exchanges will be made for groceries.

One reason for this, is that the supermarkets' lines, although quicker and more convenient for shoppers, in fact offer poorer value to dedicated stamp collectors.

Further, there are exchange value of a book of 1,280 stamps (if traded in for cash they have a face value of £32p each) is estimated at £720 through the redemption centres, while the "Super Discount" plan provides for a minimum redemption value of only 52p per book.

In fairness, the grocery lines selected for the scheme are likely to be further discounted by the supermarkets themselves. Furthermore, there are various "double stamp" and "bonus offer" promotion schemes in Green Shield's own pipeline which will have the effect of increasing the value of the stamps to the collector.

Mr McAuliffe is confident that the new measures will more than pull Green Shield through the crisis. He is in the middle of redesigning the traditional redemption centres and the catalogues which collectors use, and is much more inclined to look forward than back.

Moreover, for the financial year which ended earlier this month he expects to show a profit, though obviously this will be appreciably lower than the (pre-tax) figure of £3.3m recorded for 1976.

Turnover is expected to be about 10 per cent below the £77m of last year.

Patricia Tisdall

Films keep the eyes open to danger

There is of course no shortage of the needle danger: it flourishes all around us, the more thickly as we increase the complexity of living, and it is natural that there should be increasing interest in the flower of safety that Heston saw as his companion.

That interest fostered the Health and Safety at Work Act, 1974, a formidable piece of legislation that lays on employers (and, as is sometimes forgotten, on employees) a duty of caring about safety, both from injury and from health hazards.

The same interest has long been reflected in a steady stream of safety films. The Health and Safety Executive are themselves involved in film making, ranging over a wide field. Thus *Guarding of power* presses is a strictly factual exploration of the power presses regulations, for a necessary limited audience, while *All in the day's work* is of much more general interest, as an account of a day in the life of a factory inspector.

Another film from the executive, *Anachee*, is about the dangers that surround children playing on farms, a grim 27 minute story for schools and agricultural audiences. The reason for the film is of course the number of children who are killed and injured each year on farms, the same kind of road that prompted British Rail's quite different film *Finishing line* which caused some controversy back in the spring but has done much to reduce some children from disaster.

How far can one teach children about danger without oversteering their desire for adventure? By the same token, how far are safety regulations for adults to be enforced? (The answer, of course, is that they should be.)

For although workers' carelessness is at least as fruitful a source of injury as employers' neglect, so also is the laudable desire of conscientious men and women to get the job done as quickly as possible.

A year or two back Imperial Chemicals' Insurance made a suspense classic in *And then there were two*, where the damage was caused by the year's wear and tear on a machine rather than carelessness.

The Ceramics, Glass and Mineral Training Board, which this year sponsored *Intensive care*, a study of the consequences of a chemical accident, had earlier made *One green bottle*, in which we saw an accident analysed in court, with layers of management responsibility exposed.

Aid who was responsible for the fatal trench-collapse in *No questions asked*, the very moving story with which the National Federation of Building Trades Employers is now awarding in West Berlin this autumn.

In *Intensive care*, one small careless action can weld with others to produce catastrophe, and even without catastrophe, individual carelessness too often puts others at risk.

Safety in the forest, one of a trio of safety films from the Furniture and Timber Industry Board, is a good example. It shows George with slap-happy Charlie, both of them engaged in forestry, and shows the variety of hazards (with one particularly gruesome shot) to which all can expose themselves.

When *Fire starts*, from Millbank Films, has acquired an unforeseen and undesired topicality. Its principal purpose is to show how small fires can be prevented from becoming big fires. The main point is to get the fire brigade on the scene as soon as possible, is one which has been heavily borne in on us lately.

Safety is also the concern of manufacturers of safety products and HCB Angus made *The crew safety vehicle* to show the merits of their most uncrushable driver's cab for fire engines and other emergency appliances.

A list of safety films can remind one of more than firemen's dangers. Probably few office workers consider how much more dangerous than their own way of life is the life of most industrial workers.

True, we have another Millbank Film, *Have a good day, dear*, to encourage care in the office, and in it we are shown the possibility of accidents in even our precious shells.

There are in fact 5,000 serious office accidents a year. But the frightful variety of things that happen: in factories, on ships, on building sites and on farms, do seem to make offices seem relatively safe places.

Eynon Smart

Films obtainable from:
British Transport Films: *The finishing line*, free loan.
Central Film Library: *All in the day's work*, £120; hire, one day £5, 50p each further day; *Anachee*, £83; free loan; *Guarding of power presses*, £61; hire, one day £5, 50p each further day.

Millbank Films: *And then there were two*, £150; *Have a good day, dear*, £25; *Fire starts*, £160; hire all five films £20 for three days, £25 a week.
Intensive care, £160; *One green bottle*, £150; *When fire starts*, £160; hire all five films £20 for three days, £25 a week.

Random Film Library: *The crew safety vehicle*, free loan.
Training Films International: *Whistleblow*, No questions asked, £150; *Have a good day, dear*, £150; *Fire starts*, £245; hire, £15 for two days.

(All prices add VAT)

A fault in the law on unfair dismissal

From Mr Christopher Waugh

Sir, In your report on the parliamentary debate on industrial tribunals (November 21) you cite the views of various members of Parliament and in particular a criticism from one who likened the results of unfair dismissal cases to a "fruit machine" where claimants had "nothing to lose and something to gain".

May I make two observations? First, if the results of claims are capricious, then a great deal of the blame must be laid at the door of Parliament which has legislated some extremely complex and diffuse Acts for the tribunals and Courts of Appeal to interpret.

For instance, prior to August 3, there were inconsistencies in the approach of the Employment Appeal Tribunal to some cases of constructive dismissal, namely that in some the contractual test was applied whereas in others it was the unreasonableness test, but on that day the tribunal decided that the contractual test should be applied forthwith.

On October 4 the Employment Appeal Tribunal held that the previous decision was wrongly decided in view of an unexpected decision in the Court of Appeal and that the unreasonableness test was the correct one. On November 13 this was overruled by the Court of Appeal which said that the test should be contractual; and it remains the law for the present.

All this could have been avoided if the Act specifically stated which test should be applied.

Secondly, it is not accurate to say that a claimant has nothing to lose, as legal aid is available only for advising and not for representation before the industrial tribunal. Further, a successful claimant cannot recover his legal costs against his employer (except in rare instances). Hence, a dismissed employee, who may still be without a job, will have to pay for his own lawyer out of his dwindling resources, which, I suggest, must be a restraining influence on him, especially as there is an inevitable delay before his case can be heard and when he has time for reflection.

Furthermore, if the industrial

tribunal find that the employee is partly responsible for his own dismissal, then his award will be reduced pro-rata, and this might well equate with or be less than his legal expenses.

For the employer on the other hand, the costs will probably be relatively small, and, in any event, probably tax deductible.

Yours faithfully,
CHRISTOPHER WAUGH,
Lamb Building,
Temple,
London EC3Y 7AS.
November 23.

From Mr W. G. Francis
Sir, Mr Morley (November 21) seems to have completely missed the point of my original letter: that, as far as independent companies are concerned, the Employment Protection Act is a deterrent to any expansion which involves the taking on of additional employees.

To say that we should not complain because similar laws prevail in the EEC is nonsense. What I and my business friends in Europe want is that the legislation which bears so heavily on independent companies should be amended as soon as possible. Much of this legislation can be borne quite easily by big public companies and not by small ones.

They have legal departments. But it is an intolerable burden for those in the independent sector.

Few will disagree with the principles which prompted the introduction of these new laws. Our concern is that the people who drafted the legislation appear to be so remote from the realities of actually running businesses that they were unaware of the counterproductive effect this legislation would have on smaller companies. One is forced to the conclusion that it has been drafted by academics for implementation by bureaucrats.

Yours faithfully,
W. G. FRANCIS,
Francis and Lewis Limited,
Fairview Road,
Cheltenham, GL52 2BW,
Gloucestershire.
November 22.

Getting UK industry on the move

From Sir Derek Ezra
Sir, I would like to refer to Mr Ronald Burt's article in your issue of November 17. He writes that, in any event, a major economic change is now facing Britain.

In a drastically balanced situation, a number of things are beginning to go right, even though there are risks in some directions. But there is one underlying weakness, which is the sluggishness of industrial growth. It is more spending power is needed by further tax reductions or other measures.

It is essential that this should be accompanied by a substantial increase in industrial production. If not, the effect in the past year will be to suck in more imports and to weaken our industrial potential still further. The fact that this could now be masked by North Sea oil revenues would only make the day of reckoning the more serious.

It is for this reason that the British Institute of Management has launched its Spar Campaign (standing for Strategy, Performance and Utilization of Resources in industry). There is no simple answer to the problem of reactivating growth in British industry, particularly with overseas markets in mind. That is why the BIM campaign seeks to encompass all the main aspects of industrial endeavour. Equally, there is no single group in the community which can put this right. That is why the BIM campaign seeks to enlist to all who are involved in industrial activities—government, management, trade unions and, not least, consumers.

But the campaign recognizes that the initiative and the main driving force must come from British industry managers. It is our aim to involve as many managers as possible in this effort for growth and employment. The BIM campaign management bodies are already actively supporting the campaign.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK EZRA,
Chairman of the BIM,
British Institute of Management,
Management House,
Parker Street,
London WC2E 8PT.
November 21.

Monopolies report on architects

From Mr John Burket

Sir, The problem with lengthy government reports is that by the time the Monopolies Commission on architects services (213 pages) is that they are seldom read by anyone except those who are directly affected and therefore any criticism which they may have is immediately suspect of being biased and probably is.

May I therefore suggest through your columns that anyone who is likely to come under the scrutiny of the Monopolies Commission should read this report as it would appear to contain some very disturbing elements which may well influence the form of future reports.

The terms of reference are very narrowly prescribed and amount in effect to whether the architectural profession is operating a mandatory scale of fees is acting against the public interest. The commission states certain obvious criticisms of this practice which are mainly that it reduces incentive to minimise the architect's costs and that in the absence of competitive pressure clients pay more for the architect's services than they need.

Evidence has been taken from both suppliers and users of architects' services the majority of whom do not support these criticisms. Some users have reservations but the greater part including all public users are generally in support of the present system.

Methods of charging in other countries are also examined. In all EEC countries there is some form of mandatory fee scale while in the United States where one would expect a free-for-all and where fee scales were abolished as recently as 1972 there is a current move towards selection by merit rather than by fee competition.

To reach any other conclusion than that the current system of charging is by and large in the public interest one would need to place very heavy reliance on the contrary evidence from the small minority of private users and in particular on the evidence of the New Architecture Movement whose "contract list" in June 1976 numbered just over 200 persons drawn from all areas of architectural activity including the lay public. But this is precisely what the Monopolies Commission has done and the conclusions that they have reached are that the mandatory scales should be replaced by recommended scales which should not be binding.

One would have expected that most weight could have been given to the evidence of the majority of users where the commission was impressed by the number who favoured the retention of scales. Many of these users have suggested ways in which the scales might be modified to cover a greater range of building types, a system which is widely practised elsewhere in the EEC. The more obvious conclusion should have been towards modified scales but which remain mandatory.

Having read the report from cover to cover I do not, Sir, understand why the commission

have reached the conclusions which they have, although it becomes increasingly apparent throughout the text that they have allowed themselves considerable latitude in subjective judgments. There is little understanding of the professional problems involved and a cynical disregard of the direct effect of recessions on the building industry. The logical conclusion of these conclusions is for unions to be placed under the scrutiny of the commission, for professors to be paid according to the value placed on them by their students and for QCs to be paid by results.

I would hesitate to say that the issues have been prejudged although the haste with which the minister has accepted the conclusions and recommendations is open to criticism. The report was presented to Parliament and I trust that Parliament will read it and ask the appropriate questions.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN BURKET,
10-14 Macklin Street,
London WC2E 8NF
November 23.

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The Scottish National Trust Company Limited

1977 asset value per ordinary stock unit — a new record

The net asset value at 30th September 1977 is up by 21% to 19.3p per unit, which is a new record: earnings and dividends are both up by 15%, so altogether it has been a good year for the company. During the year overseas borrowings have increased but, due to the much better performance of the British market, the proportion of the portfolio invested overseas has declined from 36% to 25%.

In this country the market has done better than seemed likely when one considers the financial state of the country a year ago. The loan negotiated with the International Monetary Fund last year had conditions attached to it which eventually forced public sector spending into some semblance of control. Provided public sector spending remains so, there is a chance that the private sector might expand if only there were the incentive to do so. As yet, that incentive does not exist. Our economy remains stagnant, our inflation rate is still too high, but in government circles there seems to be an awareness that, if investment is needed, some incentive has to be given.

For all our shortcomings, the foreigner seems to have changed his mind about us. North Sea oil is fast replacing oil imports, our perennial balance-of-payments crises have come to an end, and the foreigner wants our currency again. A rising pound should mean lower import prices and therefore a reduction in our inflation rate; on the other hand it also means higher export prices and perhaps a loss of export market share. However, our improving outlook will be in jeopardy if the government fails to stand firm on the subject of incomes. The wages offensive has just begun and in the public sector a situation similar to that in 1974 could easily develop.

In America, the recovery from the recession has slowed down and interest rates have been rising due to an exceptional rise in the money supply. The most serious problem in America is the energy situation, for which there is no quick solution. The demand for oil continues to grow, and with half America's oil being imported there is a substantial balance of trade deficit. Despite this, the relationship between the levels of American and British markets is becoming such that it may soon be worth switching funds into America.

Copies of the Annual Report, containing the Chairman's statement to shareholders in full, may be obtained from The Secretary, Scottish National Trust Company (Scotland) Limited, Ashley House, 18-195 West George Street, Glasgow G4 6HL.

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CONTINUED EXPANSION OVERSEAS

Extracts from the circulated Statement of Mr. Michael L.B. Wright (Chairman):

I am pleased to be able to report an increase of approximately 70% in the pre-tax profit, compared with 1976, with a figure for the year of £1,725,000. Sales for the year were £20 million compared with £18.3 million. The directors recommend a final dividend of 2.83p per share, making a total of 3.83p per share for the year—the maximum permitted.

The general recession in the construction industry has obviously had an influence on the performance of the two principal divisions of the Group—hardware and engineering. Nevertheless they have both performed remarkably well against their sales budgets.

Our Australian and South African companies have put in creditable performances and have more than retained their share of a temporarily declining market. Since the year-end we have acquired Parow & Wright Limited of Williamstown, Victoria, Australia, manufacturers of plumbing fittings.

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The forecasts we have prepared for the current financial year are encouraging, order books for most of our companies at the moment are more buoyant than the corresponding period last year and we believe we shall reap the benefits of the considerable capital expenditure on plant and modernisation which we have incurred over the past year.

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BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Problems ahead for fund managers

Now that the monetary authorities have successfully engineered a sharp and speedy correction to short term interest rates, what next? Both gilt and equity markets responded well on Friday to the corrective action, fostering hopes that we may now have a base for a pre-Christmas rally. It would be foolish, however, to suppose that critical questions do not remain to be answered.

What the authorities have done so far is to reiterate, for the second time in the space of a month, that control of the money supply continues to hold a predominant place in economic strategy. What we still do not know, nor for that matter do they, is whether they have yet done enough.

What is still awaited is a firm indication of what is happening to bank lending. The October figures may have been a guide. There is a feeling that the banks to corporate liquidity through the speeding of overseas remittances ahead of the rise in sterling may have worked itself out. The potential supply/demand situation for money remains uncertain, however, and it is too early to say whether the actions so far taken by the authorities are going to be the end of the story.

The next major point of importance is institutional appetite. Ideally, the Government Broker will want to find the right level for the 1982 "tap" stock as quickly as possible. The hope then will be that the institutions will feed, and that the more they feed the more they will be convinced that the money supply will be back under control and that gilts can move higher.

This morning, of course, will bring a massive £528m call on Exchequer 104/1977. But the institutions have not been committing money to the market for some weeks now and they could, of course, run down their short-term liquidity safe in the knowledge that it could be made good again by late year-end cash flow.

What is far less clear, however, is what fund managers wish to show their trustees at the end of this quarter. Do they wish to show themselves as being fully invested? Or do they wish to show how they have been clever enough to have reduced their commitments within spiriting distance of the top of the market?

If the market does go well over the coming weeks, those who are uneasy about 1978 should be asking themselves the following questions. Is there a potential conflict between economic growth and control of the money supply in 1978-79? If it seems likely that there is, will there be a better opportunity to alter the balance of one's portfolio?

Banks

Relief

at last

It is a working certainty that the clearing banks will be raising their base rates during the next day or two and the only question is by how much. After the trials of recent weeks it will have been a real cause for relief that Minimum Lending Rate, and accordingly the structure of short-term rates, should have been allowed to rise by as much as two points last week.

With base rate at 6 per cent the banks have been making little enough profit on their domestic branch operations, and had the rate fallen by a further half point they would have been barely breaking even. At the same time the banks have been obliged to suffer an unprecedented margin between their deposit rates and those offered by rivals like the building societies and the national savings banks.

But it is doubtful that the banks will feel justified in matching the rise in MLR with a full two point increase in base rates. Because of the profit squeeze resulting from the fall in interest rates this year the banks have resisted lowering their base rates fully in 1976.

They may decide now to go up by 1-1½ points, however, and possibly to widen the gap between base and deposit rates at the same time, as a further buttress to profit. In profit terms, indeed, the clearing banks could well be at a turning point. As I discuss below, a consumer spending revival, if not already in progress, is on the way. Capital investment is already modestly on the upturn and stock levels, which have

recently been running down, must surely begin to pick up again early next year. That in turn will mean rising loan demand.

The problem for bank shares, which until about a month ago, is the possibility that the authorities could turn to rationing of loan demand through the "corset" although at the moment they appear reluctant to do so. Secondly the banks will still report results reflecting the dismal trading conditions of the present year.



Sir James Blair-Cunyiffham, chairman of National and Commercial Banking Group.

National and Commercial will provide a forebaste with its figures this week. Bank shares have, in any case, rebounded quite sharply in the past month. Psychologically, though, rising interest rates are always good for banks and they might show further relative strength in the coming weeks. Whether there will be much scope for significant absolute price rises is another matter, however.

Profits Second thoughts

Disappointment over company profits has now passed through two distinct stages. The first followed the poor first half results from GKN. The second started with Courtaulds and culminated in the sharp fall in ICI's third quarter profits last week. While it was possible to some extent to shrug off GKN's figures as being particular to engineers close to the steel industry, the weight of evidence from a food processing like Unilever through chemicals and capital goods group like Renold is causing some sharp downgrading of forecasts in stock-brokers' offices.

The common thread running through the disappointment is the very flat conditions in Europe. Overseas profits generally have been worse than in the United Kingdom, where, at last, the indicators are turning upwards with some signs of reviving consumer expenditure and a 5 per cent third quarter rise in manufacturing investment, but sharply reduced stock profits and a lack of gains from a declining pound, have added to a grim picture.

It has become clear that forecasters were misled by an over-optimistic first quarter when OECD countries were expected to increase output by 4 per cent this year, margins in the United Kingdom were widening as demand apparently improved and the pound was increasingly competitive. The mood of optimism disappeared in the second quarter as involuntary stockbuilding led to the inevitable sell-off in the third.

Next year British manufacturers with a less competitive pound and higher rate of inflation will be competing in a continuingly slow-growing world economy.

Wood Mackenzie have reduced current year profits growth to about 13 or 14 per cent from 22 per cent estimated in June with an expected 10 per cent increase in the first half of next year and 20 per cent in the second. Hoare Govett is going for only 5 per cent next year after 20 per cent this and Phillips and Drew are currently revising their expected 20 per cent growth rate this year to about 15 per cent and bringing next year's forecasts down.

Gainers on the stock market could be companies benefiting from the rise in consumer spending at home without the disadvantages of Europe or the pound such as retailers, electricals and brewers.

The Government's nearest approach to a national plan—its industrial strategy based on tripartite consultation, and 39 sector working parties within the National Economic Development Office—is just over two years' old.

Judging from past experience this means that it is at a turning point. For all previous planning exercises at national level have for one reason or another, economic or political, broken down at about that point in their effective lives.

In the present case it is not clear whether something real is happening or whether the whole thing is in danger of degenerating into a paper chase. The frequency with which fetters foundries are used as an example of what practical things are being done does not inspire confidence across a broader front.

Of course, quick solutions to deep rooted problems should not be expected. For the moment, at least, judgment must be suspended. Judgment about the need for planning is by no means suspended in a slim volume—published this month by Mr Michael Shanks, lately of the

European Commission and now chairman of the National Consumer Council. As a book, it promises rather more than it delivers. It is, in the main, a short history of the National Economic Development Office and Council, charting the various waxings and wanings of its moon.

For anyone interested in the political history of planning in those years, it is a convenient trip down memory lane. Figures 10 to 15 years younger flit through the pages—Sir Robert Shanks, Sir Donald MacDougall, Sir Ronald McDonald, Sir Frederick Catherwood, Mr Aubrey Jones, Sir Frank Figueras.

In the main it is a recapitulation. Some judgments, like describing the original British Leyland merger merely as "more controversial", seem to dodge round evident failures in industrial and economic planning. It is also curiously short on analysis of why governments of every initial persuasion become forced into some kind of central planning and why the results of two decades of effort have been so thin.

It has extremely useful appendices

Hugh Stephenson

National planning—for whom?

Mr Shanks is driven virtually to a statement of faith to assert that, while planning is no panacea, it is essential and we should therefore get on with it properly. It must be depressing to those in favour of planning that, although from the original NEDC (Green and Orange Books in 1963 to this Government's *An Approach to Industrial Strategy* in 1975) the firm commitment has been to raise the underlying rate of productivity "increase" in the British economy, that rate appears to be appreciably lower today than it was in 1960.

All governments become drawn to planning because in our complex society and economy the powerful institution of price in the market place has not been able to provide a politically acceptable level of performance. There is no guarantee—some would say no likelihood—that planning will improve that performance. But as long as collectively we continue to be disappointed by that performance, so long will NEDC or something like it continue to have a role thrust upon it.

In one area, of course, everyone is

agreed that planning and planning agreements have been a triumphant success. The area is agriculture. That industry is run on the basis of the closest possible cooperation with a sponsoring ministry, with forecasts and agreed price levels and target production figures and the whole paraphernalia of planning advanced that its application broadly to industry would be unthinkable.

There is, though, a view, ably contested by the industry, that in this planning the interests of the consumer sometimes get overlooked. Certainly, there is a tendency in these matters for "tripartite" to mean the industry, the unions and the sponsoring Whitehall department.

It is perhaps therefore, ironic that in this book the new heart of the National Consumer Council should, so far as I can see, not once mention the protection of the consumer's interests as a problem, or an issue in its kind of planning.

*Planning and Politics: the British Experience 1960-76, PEP, £5.50.

An uncertain route in front of America's car makers

'Nearly half of all Americans already own cars and the declining birth rates of the 1950s and 1960s are going to be translated into a decline in new drivers in coming years'

small cars of its own, the Dodge Omni and the Plymouth Horizon. To deal forcefully in the small car market with imported products, the companies in Detroit are shaving profit margins. The Chevrolet costs about \$124 less than the comparable Toyota Corolla at \$3,354.

Keeping prices down to compete effectively with foreign producers and selling more, and more lower priced small cars translates into a lower earnings to sales ratio for the car manufacturers and this is developing just as the companies are having to embark on their most expensive and dramatic investment programme ever.

The new 1978 models to a large extent already represent a new era in United States car design. They are smaller, lighter, cleaner and more efficient in the use of fuel than many of the 1977 models. The top-selling Oldsmobile Cutlass, for example, is some 700 lb lighter this year at 3,200 lb and some 10 per cent more fuel-efficient.

Laws passed in Washington, however, demand more radical changes than these. By 1985 the average miles per gallon of car company model fleets must be raised to 27.5 from 18 at the moment. To achieve this substantial increase in efficiency the companies have no choice other than to make their cars still lighter. A 1976 model six passenger big General Motors car weighed about 5,000 lb but by 1985 it will be difficult for this company to offer cars lighter than 3,500 lbs.

Cutting the weight of cars is going to be all the harder because of tougher safety and pollution laws that force the manufacturers to add new equipment to their models. The days of the eight cylinder car are almost at an end and four, rather than six, cylinder engines may well become dominant before long.

The changes that this will demand in the way cars are made, the materials used in cars and basic engine designs, will be far-reaching; the average United States car today still has a 4.6 litre motor.

The car companies are experimenting more now with plastics, aluminium and graphite, and other alternative materials to steel. The moves to smaller and lighter cars already have had some impact on the United States steel industry, but they will have a much greater effect in coming years and the Carter Administration is fully aware of this as it now puts the final touches to its programme to assist the ailing steel industry.

The most beneficial effect on the changes now taking place will be in the energy area. Big insurance savings are bound to result, although



The Fairmont, a new compact, medium-sized car on the production line at Ford's Kansas City plant. The company hopes to sell more than 400,000 of them next year.

precisely how large these will be is still impossible to predict. given the continuing confusion in the Congress over energy policies and given the more general medium-term uncertainties regarding economic and international oil supply and pricing conditions.

Few people expect new car sales volumes in coming years to rise much beyond the 11 to 12 million a year level and it appears that such a level is the minimum that the four car producers need to stay in business and make the investments that are necessary, however sales levels could prove disastrous for AMC and Chrysler.

The United States economy is growing at a sluggish rate and it will be a surprise to many economists if a real annual growth rate of more than 4 to 5 per cent can be sustained over the next few years. In addition, new car demand could well slow down for a number of reasons specifically related to cars.

Many Americans may well want to keep their big cars rather than exchange them for smaller models and thus there is a danger that trading-in will slow to the extent that it could depress overall new sales levels.

The car-using American public is now confronting all manner of new pressures. Car insurance has been rising rapidly, while petrol prices

have also been advancing swiftly. The Environmental Protection Agency estimates, for example, that the average American might have to spend more than \$500 a year on petrol alone. In addition, car repair costs have been growing at a rapid rate.

The car companies have also continued to raise prices, with average price increases on the new 1978 models of 5.8 per cent or \$397 by Ford and by 5.7 per cent or \$405 by General Motors. The overall costs of running and buying cars and the general inflation level have resulted in a gradual lengthening of car loan repayment periods to close to four years compared with less than three years just a few years ago. The stretching-out of repayment terms could also lead to a lowering of overall trade-in rates.

Ensuring that new sales continue to grow and that new models are built in accordance with government laws and regulations will greatly tax the skills of the men in charge in Detroit. Their problems are not widely appreciated, especially in the Congress, where too much attention appears to be focused on the latest good results and too little notice given to the future problems.

Frank Vogl

Business Diary in Europe: Miss Roberts' farewell

Eirys Roberts, Britain's first lady of consumerism and hitherto the consumers' champion in Europe, goes to Buckingham Palace tomorrow to receive the insignia of a CBE, the honour awarded her in the jubilee honours.

Later in the week it will be announced in Brussels that she is stepping down from her job as director of the Bureau Européen des Unions de Consommateurs, the tiny and emboldened group which strives to make the consumer's voice heard in the din of the European market-place.

Editor of *Which?* magazine from its second issue and subsequently deputy director of its publishers, the Consumers' Association, Miss Roberts has been energetically commuting to Brussels since 1973, when she was already of an age at which most women would be happy to retire.

The European bureau has a staff of only five with which to try to influence the Brussels bureaucracy of 7,000 and to counter the influence of the powerful agricultural and industrial lobbies. But it is no mean accomplishment to have welded Europe's disparate consumer groups into any union at all.

At present the bureau lacks Italian representatives, having been obliged to exclude the Italians when it was discovered they had been receiving grants from industrial companies.



Miss Roberts, consumers' champion.

in the negotiations with developing countries over cheap textile imports, it has been able to welcome variable beef premiums as a first small step to reducing food prices in the shops and subsidizing markets rather than production.

Another success was getting a European consumers' charter introduced and ensuring that consumers are at least fairly frequently consulted if, as yet, seldom heeded.

The hunt is on for a successor and the job will not be easy to fill. Unlike most in Brussels, it does not offer a salary worthy of a Gulf state. Ideally, the bureau would need a French speaking Ralph Nader, a young energetic lawyer with "charisma", a flair for publicity, and good political contacts.

few good looks disguise her radical and ambitious approach to consumer politics.

The mere thought of having to pay taxes for the first time is sending shudders down the spines of most Spaniards, coerced under General Franco in these matters. But while they anxiously await the reforms which will bring this about, they are being assured that it will not be as horrible as it sounds.

Jaime Anoveros, a member of the ruling Democratic Centre Union party and president of the parliament's budget committee, has told economists in a discussion on fiscal reform that the new taxes will not produce convulsions in the country's economic structure. Nor would they stifle private enterprise.

Taxes existed under Franco but few Spaniards bothered to pay them. Falsifying tax returns, or just not bothering to fill them in, became almost a national sport. One estimate put the number of habitual evaders as high as 76 per cent of eligible payers.

Now the government has the right to examine bank accounts and to imprison tax dodgers or falsifiers. However, the taxes themselves will still make Spain a haven compared with poor old Britain.

Slogans reading "Under Franco we lived better" started to appear on walls some time ago, but according to an opinion poll it would seem that this is quite false. Despite the imminent changes, only 11 per cent agreed that life was better under the dictator while 52 per cent disagreed and 37 per cent said they did not know.

Daniel Loas, an enterprising French white collar worker in the building trade, has come up with an idea to turn the food-rejection by discriminating palates of his countrymen into fuel. Answer, the national research development agency, has backed his invention of turning the leftovers in the nation's dustbins into "logs" with a calorific content twice as high as fuel oil and much cheaper. The first factory to produce them (by fermenting the rubbish) is being inaugurated this week and another is being built.

Not Fiat or Montedison but Agip, which extracts oil and sells petrol under the sign of the flame-breathing six-legged dog, is the biggest Italian manufacturing company, according to a study undertaken by the economic weekly *Il Mondo*.

The magazine is proudly putting on sale a booklet containing a list of the biggest 750 Italian companies, with the 200 leading banks, 70 insurance companies, 80 financial holding companies and 30 property companies.

It covers much the same ground as periodic studies by the merchant bank Mediobanca, but these are available not to the public but only to businessmen or applicants who make personal requests. Calculating on the basis of turnover (5,885,535m lire or £3,924m in 1976) Agip is easily ahead of Fiat (3,849,610m lire or £2,566m), while the chemical giant Montedison

comes third with 2,734,623m lire (£1,823m).

The profit and loss column shows a minus as plus sign. By far the biggest profit-maker is Fiat, with 66,450m lire net profit in 1976. On the other hand two state sector companies are well ahead of others with equipment to make cars. Italsider (fourth in the list) at 130,255m lire in the red and the chemical group Anic (twelfth), with 108,001m lire.

With banks it is different. While high interest rates have brought many industrial firms to the brink of disaster, they have swelled coffers in the banking system. Nor a single loss is listed by *Il Mondo* among the leading 200.

A multinational and multi-lingual radio service, relying on EEC affairs to the Community, could be the outcome of a meeting in Brussels last week of broadcasters from the Nine. A working party has been set up to pursue the idea.

A central news room would be set up—probably at the BBC's headquarters in London which has the best facilities—from which a daily half-hour programme would be beamed to most of Northern Europe in French, English and German, and possibly to Italy as well.

The intention is that the Euro-service should go into operation experimentally for about four months to coincide with the first direct elections to the European Parliament.

If the broadcasting venture is successful, it could become a permanent feature of European radio services and be extended throughout the EEC.

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Phillips & Drew,
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London EC2Y 5AP.

28th November, 1977.

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Tanker trade awaits Opec ruling on prices

With the Opec oil price meeting now just a few weeks away hanging over the future of the tanker market like a dark cloud, business continues at a brisk rate with no sign of demand dropping off. Brokers see the forthcoming meeting, which is expected to agree an oil price increase of at least 5 per cent, as a potential dampener on trading which could make it full for the tanker market in the new year.

Freight report

Three vice for Gulf to UK/Continent trade at worldwide 28. Higher levels, including fixtures at worldwide 29.25 and worldwide 29.5, were made while one Gulf to Japan booking was quoted at worldwide 31.

Interest also extended to vice with Shell and Petrobrás both taking 340,000 tonnes for Gulf to Europe voyages. Each company paid the same rate, worldwide 28, which was in itself a small improvement on previous fixtures. Of the two, Shell took the Sea Song, and Petrobrás the Wind Eagle.

Further down the tonnage scale, the volume of chartering in the Gulf for smaller tankers (100,000 tons and below) also remains steady. A number of destinations in Africa, Asia and the Far East as well as the United States, appeared in the fixtures lists.

David Robinson

Soviet grain harvest shortfall is causing red faces in the US

By a Special Correspondent
A keen watch is being kept on Soviet purchases after the revelation that this year's harvest in the Soviet Union is 10 per cent lower than was estimated by the United States Department of Agriculture. Mr. Bob Bergman, the United States Agriculture Secretary, predicts that the Soviet Union will buy between 20 million and 25 million tonnes of grain in the winter months and next September.

It is possible that the largest part of its needs have already been covered. The news that bad weather had cut the Soviet harvest to 124 million tonnes came from Mr. Brezhnev, the Soviet Premier, in the midst of the Soviet jubilee celebrations. Many observers believe that he would not have made such an announcement if the bulk of its purchases had not already been contracted.

The secrecy surrounding the grain trade makes this difficult to verify. So far, only sales of a little over four million tonnes have been published. After the Soviet grain raid in 1972, when massive purchases were made secretly while the American taxpayer was financing export incentives, the Congress has endeavored to improve reporting procedures. A 1973 law stipulates that the USDA must be notified within 24 hours of any large sale.

A 300,000 tonne sale of corn to the Soviet Union, which came to light last week, illustrates the way trading houses have managed to evade this regulation. The companies competing for the Soviet business have an obvious interest in keeping its size quiet until they have secured supplies from the producers. The mere rumour of a big Soviet sale can drive up prices of supplies and freight.

The 300,000 tonnes of corn was at first sold to one of the trading company's European subsidiaries and the USDA was informed that its final destination was unknown.

Only when the transaction was completed was its destination switched from "unknown" to "Soviet Union".

These are, however, other indications of intense Soviet activity on the grain market. Although the Soviet Union has strongly built up the size of its own bulk carrier fleet, it has recently chartered over 30 bulk carriers.

Commodities

Union could be buying more grain than it needs for 1977. This will not of necessity pull prices out of their present slump.

Expected Soviet wheat imports of eight million tonnes are put into perspective by the current world carryover of wheat stocks of almost 100m tonnes. The USDA predicts that these will be reduced to the still very high level of 85 million tonnes by the end of the 1977-78 season.

Bears abound in the feed grain market where the United States is expected to produce a record 202 million tonnes of crop. World stocks should rise nine million tonnes to 80 million by the end of the season. The United States surplus will outweigh falls in Argentina (due to bad weather) and in Canada (due to the rock-bottom prices).

The reduction in plantings, ordered by the USDA, is not likely to have much effect until the end of the season. It is known that the other grain

hoggy, China, will not be buying in the United States this year.

Prices have recently undergone some modest increases but this could be explained as much by a Canadian-Australian and Argentine crop cuts as by the Soviet requirements. Prices on the Chicago market rose about six cents a bushel on the day Mr. Brezhnev dropped his bombshell but have since remained steady.

The long-term grain agreement signed between the United States and the Soviet Union in 1975 to a big Soviet presence in the market. Intended to even out the Soviet Union's demands upon American supplies, it placed a 6 million tonne minimum and an 8 million tonne maximum on Soviet grain purchases, which could only be exceeded with the prior authorization of the USDA.

The long-term agreement also included provisions for six-monthly inspections of the Soviet grain fields by USDA officials, with further exchange of information available upon request. It is this aspect of the agreement that is most likely to be reviewed as a result of the latest Soviet crop failure.

Red-faced USDA officials explained that they came to their own optimistic 215 million tonne Soviet crop prediction on the basis of insufficient data. They say that the Soviet Union must offer some more generous facilities if they are to have accurate estimates.

The problem is not simply the sheer size of the Soviet grain fields. A large proportion of the crop is grown in marginal areas where bad weather can have a devastating effect. Some traders are fearful that even now the true extent of the damage may not be known.

Eurobond prices (yields and premiums)

Country	Issue	Yield	Premium
Australia	1981	10.50	0.00
Belgium	1981	10.50	0.00
Canada	1981	10.50	0.00
France	1981	10.50	0.00
Germany	1981	10.50	0.00
Italy	1981	10.50	0.00
Japan	1981	10.50	0.00
Netherlands	1981	10.50	0.00
Spain	1981	10.50	0.00
Sweden	1981	10.50	0.00
Switzerland	1981	10.50	0.00
UK	1981	10.50	0.00
USA	1981	10.50	0.00

Weekly list of fixed interest stocks

Company	Price	Yield	P/E
Ally & Wilson	74.00	7.40	7.40
Anglo Siam	74.00	7.40	7.40
Anglo Siam	74.00	7.40	7.40
Anglo Siam	74.00	7.40	7.40
Anglo Siam	74.00	7.40	7.40
Anglo Siam	74.00	7.40	7.40
Anglo Siam	74.00	7.40	7.40
Anglo Siam	74.00	7.40	7.40
Anglo Siam	74.00	7.40	7.40
Anglo Siam	74.00	7.40	7.40

Unit Trust Prices—change on the week FT Index change on week 466.0-145(30%)

Unit Trust	Price	Change
Abney Unit Trust	10.50	0.00
Abney Unit Trust	10.50	0.00
Abney Unit Trust	10.50	0.00
Abney Unit Trust	10.50	0.00
Abney Unit Trust	10.50	0.00
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Abney Unit Trust	10.50	0.00
Abney Unit Trust	10.50	0.00
Abney Unit Trust	10.50	0.00

Euromarkets

The Eurobond market was acting well last week even though the dollar was looking more sick on the foreign exchange market, writes AP-Dow Jones.

Toward the end of the week, prices of Eurodollar bonds rose by a quarter of a point as a certain number of institutional investors started shopping around for cheap bonds.

"We have the feeling that a large amount of money is ready for investment, so we want to

Bank Base Rates

Bank	Rate
ABN Bank	6.00
Barclays Bank	6.00
Consolidated Credits	6.00
First London Secs	6.00
C. Hoare & Co	6.00
Lloyds Bank	6.00
London Mercantile	6.00
Midland Bank	6.00
Nar Westminster	6.00
Parsons Bank	6.00
Shenley Trust	6.00
TSB	6.00
Williams & Glyn's	6.00

7 day deposits on sums of £10,000 and under 3 1/2% over £10,000, 4 1/2%

M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited

Company	Price	Yield	P/E
2,100 Airsprung Ord	42	2.42	10.1
367 Airsprung 18 1/2 CULS	147	2.18	12.6
925 Armitage & Rhodes	37	1.33	8.9
4,307 Bardon Hill	141	1.02	10.5
2,739 Deborah Ord	102	2.12	17.1
424 Deborah 17 1/2 CULS	212	2.12	17.1
21,092 Frederick Parker	146	2.12	17.1
5,042 Henry Sykes	106	2.12	17.1
1,250 Jackson Group	105	2.12	17.1
14,629 James Burroughs	105	2.12	17.1
3,366 Robert Jenkins	105	2.12	17.1
2,991 Twinklack Ord	12	12.0	16.6
1,953 Twinklack 12 1/2 ULS	74	12.0	16.6
2,785 Unilock Holdings	64	12.0	16.6
5,432 Walter Alexander	86	12.0	16.6

CHARTERHALL Finance Holdings Limited

Extracts from the Statement of the Chairman Mr. Derek G. Williams to the Members at the Annual General Meeting on 25th November, 1977.

- There has been further advancement in the development of the Group's North Sea Oil interests, which represent the major part of its assets and future earning potential.
- British Petroleum has acquired a substantial interest in Licence P.241 which covers Blocks 21/1 and 21/6 North Sea and became Operator to the Consortium. The Buechan Field is in Block 21/1.
- The Charterhall Group now holds an indirect interest representing a 4-7.30 per cent per production interest in the Buechan area, and a 4-7.30 per cent working interest in the North Sea area as well as a direct working interest of 1 per cent in the whole area covered by Licence P.241.
- The current year has seen development of the American subsidiary which is now producing income from its natural gas operations.
- In Australia exploration work has been resumed on the Mt. Keith venture.
- The financial companies acquired in the previous year have provided sufficient profits to cover the operating expenses of the Group and leave a surplus of £108,738.
- The Company's name is being changed to Charterhall Limited.

Copies of the Report and Accounts can be obtained from The Charterhall Finance Holdings Limited, 10, Sutherland House, Brighton Road, Sutton Surrey SM2 5BA.

Indian sugar

C. Carmikow Ltd said in its latest sugar review that India must encourage expansion of its domestic consumption from the 6.6 kilos per head of last year if it is to avoid restricting production or further growth of stocks.

A move in this direction was taken this week with the substantial reductions in internal export duties, but Carmikow said it was not clear whether and to what extent this encourages increased sucrose usage or just a switch from non-centrifugal sugar.

The need to increase domestic consumption follows a sharp drop in exports in the first half of 1977 and a production increase resulting in expanded stocks of 641,000 tonnes at end-July.

NY Coffee Exchange

New York, Nov 25.—The New York Coffee and Sugar Exchange has not increased its margins, despite persistent rumours to the contrary, the president, Mr. Ben Corn said. He did not say whether the exchange has plans to increase the margins.—Reuter.

Australian wool prices

Sydney, Nov 25.—Australia's National Council of Wool Selling Brokers reports that Australian wool prices eased overall this week despite the continuing burst of demand from Eastern Europe and the USSR in particular.

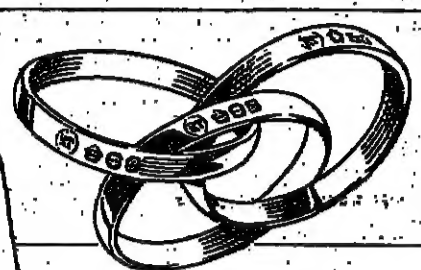
The whole clip market indicator closed on 303 cents a kilo clean, one cent down on last week. The trade bought 70.5 per cent of the 136,417 bales offered at Goulburn, Portland, Adelaide and Fremantle.

Christmas Gift Guide

For Everyone

The Russian ring in platinum.

£99.50

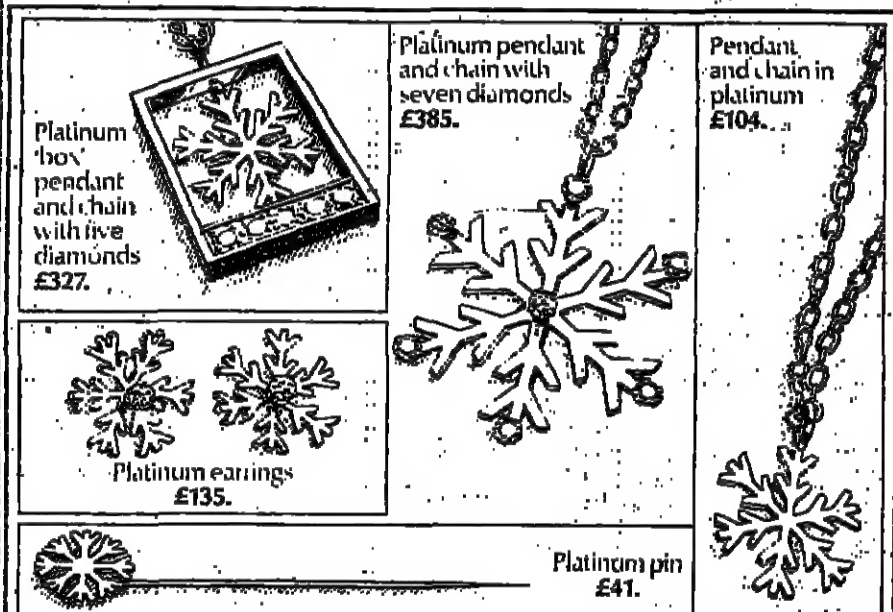


This beautiful and intriguing Russian ring is in fact three linked rings of solid platinum, each with the platinum hallmark on its outer surface. A superb, timeless gift.

GUILDHALL

Send for full details and size chart to Guildhall Fine Metals, Guild House, Hearsall Lane, Earlsdon, Coventry CV5 6LF.

The Platinum Snowflake Collection



As elegant and as coolly delicate as its name, the Snowflake Collection by Susan Wright shows the beauty of platinum to perfection. Every piece is a perfect gift. From T.J. Perry, 124 Regent Street, London W1. Telephone (01) 734 2389.

For Everyone

SKATEBOARDERS!

Factory agents, clubs, etc. Cash till Christmas. Super Nash Skateboards, recommended retail price £23.95. OUR WHOLESALE PRICE: £10.50. NSA Helmets £4.35. West Coast Protector Sets £3.45.

A 21-in. polypropylene kick tailboard complete with aluminium rubber cushion trucks, stainless steel bearings and urethane wheels. Any quantity we will deliver. Callers only.

19 Scarlebrick Avenue, Southport. Telephone: Southport 38433.

L'Uomo Elegante

Christmas bargains in top quality Italian clothes.

Come to L'Uomo Elegante, retail prices £200-£300, our prices £100-£150. Suits, shirts, sweaters, trousers, jackets, shoes, accessories. All Italian. All new. All at special Christmas prices. Call 01-253 0808/9.

GOLD

Manufactured price direct to you for sale, broken, complete with padlock and safety chain. 4 BAR 227, 5 BAR 228, 6 BAR 229, 7 BAR 230. Wide selection of silver and gold chains. Modern and Traditional Jewellery. 45, SOUTH AUDLEY ST. LONDON W1 ENGLAND. Tel: 01-253 1163/4. Telephone 01-253 1163/4.

SHEEPSKIN COATS

Special Sale. Ladies' and gents' sheepskin coats, fur-trimmed, all the family. Personal shoppers only. TRAVEL AND SPORTS. 405 The Strand, W.C.2 (next St. Martin's Church). 01-253 1788.

DESIGN FOR GIVING

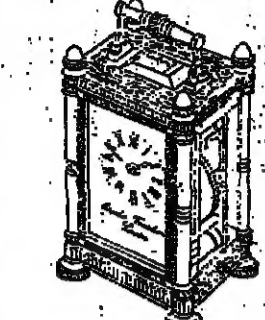
Blaze, bracelet, chain, etc. Gifts, Christmas, elegant, useful, unique. All prices from £1.00. See our time sections at Victoria and Albert Museum. 45, SOUTH AUDLEY ST. LONDON W1 ENGLAND. Open 6 days a week.

BOOKPLATES

3 great books for the booklover. 1. The Bookplate. 2. The Bookplate. 3. The Bookplate. All prices from £1.00. See our time sections at Victoria and Albert Museum. 45, SOUTH AUDLEY ST. LONDON W1 ENGLAND. Open 6 days a week.

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

For Him. Christmas Holidays. For Everyone. Christmas Presents. 45, SOUTH AUDLEY ST. LONDON W1 ENGLAND. Open 6 days a week.



31" High OLD ENGLISH style. Silver night 11 ozs Troy. Edition limited to 250 World Wide.

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DON'T BE LATE

POCKET TIMER ALARM. 31" High OLD ENGLISH style. Silver night 11 ozs Troy. Edition limited to 250 World Wide.

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THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION.

HOW TO ENTER

First study the guide carefully. Then answer in full three simple questions. (The answers are all in the advertisements in today's Guide.)

Christmas Gift Guide Competition Number 5

Clue: Where would you find a snowflake that doesn't melt?
Clue: Spring flowers early?
Clue: How could you get to work on time?

Now put yourself in Santa's snow boots. Your sleigh is so laden and time so short that you're not likely to consider traffic warden every time you pull Rudolph to a stop. Imagine your reaction when you are summoned for parking in a restricted zone.

Then write a 100 word letter to the Clerk of the Magistrates. You are going to plead mitigating circumstances. After all The Times Christmas Gift Guide has made so much extra work this year you can't be expected to notice every yellow line. And remember, a touch of joviality will probably soften the judicial heart.

Then send us your letter, remembering to enclose your full name and address, and indicating which prize you would like to receive should you win.

Three entrants must win every day the Guide is published. Closing date for today's competition, 3 days after today's date. Post this entry to: THE TIMES CHRISTMAS GIFT GUIDE COMPETITION, No. 12 Coley Street, London WC9 9ET.

The names and addresses of the winners will be published in The Times. The decision of the judges is final. All entries will be judged on their literary merits.

For Everyone

For the Home

For the Home

Christmas Presents

For Everyone

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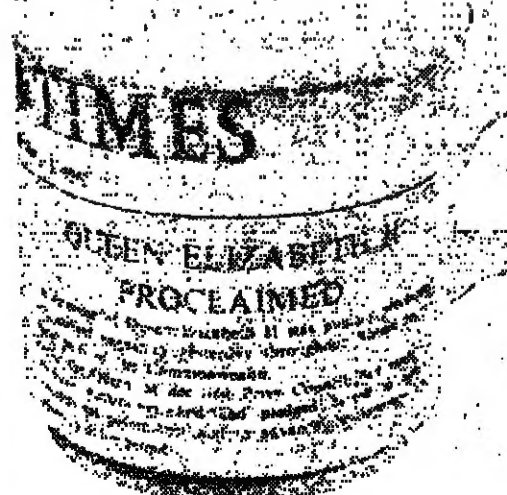
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Times Jubilee Mug



Silver itself could not be used for this special Times Silver Jubilee Mug, as it is not a sufficiently hard metal, and so an extract from the relevant 1952 Times is printed in pure platinum on a white ceramic base. The words "The Times" appear as they did with the Royal Device used between 1951-1953. This special Jubilee Mug is available in limited quantities only, as no more Silver Jubilee items may be manufactured after October 1st, 1977. Individually boxed, the mug costs £2.50 and will make the ideal gift for Jubilee year. Please complete the coupon in clear capitals. U.K. addresses only. Normal delivery within 28 days from receipt of your order. Inquiries, not orders, to Christine Westwood, 01-637 7951.

Send to: Jubilee Mug Offer, 13 Ogle Street, London W1P 7LG.

I would like Times Jubilee Mug(s) at £2.50 each and my cheque made out to Selective Marketplace Limited for £..... is enclosed.

Name

Address

Post Code

Send to: Jubilee Mug Offer, 13 Ogle Street, London W1P 7LG.

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